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Country programme document

Mozambique

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Mozambique is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $75,696,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $180,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2017 to 2020.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2016.

* E/ICEF/2016/13.

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Programme rationale

1. Mozambique is one of the most rapidly developing countries in Africa, with annual growth averaging 7 per cent, significant direct foreign investment, and potential for further resource expansion following the discovery of natural gas deposits. However, with prospective gas revenues yet to materialize, large debts constraining prospects for spending across all sectors, and a series of natural disasters and political crisis, among other challenges, there are concerns that progress towards the realization of children's rights might not take place at the pace initially envisaged. It is within this uncertain context that the UNICEF programme, 2017-2020, will aim to deliver results. Optimism remains, but as poverty and inequities in service delivery continue, UNICEF and partners will support the efforts of the Government to reduce child poverty, focusing in particular on the key concerns of child health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, protection and social inclusion.

2. The predominantly rural population of Mozambique increased from 22 million in 2010 to 25.7 million in 2015, with 13.3 million children under the age of 18.[1] Overall poverty is at 54 per cent and 48 per cent of all children live in absolute poverty.[2] Disparities continue between rural and urban areas, between the south and north of the country, and between boys and girls, which hamper overall development and limit opportunities for many children to access the resources and services they need to develop to their full potential. Over 50 per cent of households are food insecure, 24 per cent chronically, leaving them vulnerable to shocks (recurrent flooding throughout the country and drought in the south and centre) and undermining their productivity. Under-nutrition remains a key determinant for child under-development, with 43.3 per cent of children stunted.[3]

3. Maternal mortality rests at 408 deaths per 100,000 live births;[4] 20 per cent of these among girls under age 20. Progress has been made in reducing child mortality – under five mortality stands at 97 per 1,000 live births[5] and infant mortality is 64 per 1,000 live births.[6] Malaria accounts for 35 per cent of child mortality. HIV prevalence among adults is declining but remains at 11.5 per cent,[7] and 200,000 children live with HIV.[8]

4. Access to safe water and sanitation remains low. Forty-nine per cent of the population lacks access to improved water sources, rising to 63 per cent in rural areas.[9] Further, 79 per cent of the population does not use improved sanitation facilities. Ten million Mozambicans practice open defecation, 90 per cent of them in rural areas. Only half of the country's 11,922 primary schools have access to water and sanitation facilities, and maintenance and cleanliness are concerns. Cholera is a regular recurrence in times of annual flooding.

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[1] National Statistics Institute (INE), "Projections 2007-2040".
[2] UNICEF, "Child poverty and disparities in Mozambique", 2010.
[3] Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition (SETSAN), Baseline study on food and nutritional security, 2013.
[4] INE, Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2011.
[5] The United Nations official estimate for 2014 is 79.
[6] INE, Demographic and Health Survey 2011.
[7] INE and Ministry of Health, National survey on HIV prevalence in Mozambique (INSIDA) 2009/2010.
[8] UNICEF, State of the World's Children, 2013.
[9] WHO-UNICEF joint monitoring programme, 2015.

5. Despite significant progress in primary enrolment, less than half of children complete primary education and many drop out in the first five years, while enrolment stagnates in upper primary and secondary despite increased provision. An estimated 1.2 million children are out of school, more girls than boys, especially in the secondary age group, owing mainly to poverty and socio-cultural norms, such as early marriage and pregnancy. The 2013 national learning assessment found that only 6.3 per cent of third grade students had basic reading competencies. A 2014 World Bank survey revealed that only 1 per cent of primary school teachers have the minimum expected knowledge. It also highlighted high levels of absenteeism among teachers (49 per cent), directors (44 per cent) and students (about half of enrolled students are absent on any given day.)

6. The patriarchal nature of gender relations and negative social and cultural norms contribute to the widespread acceptance of violence against women and girls. Almost half (48 per cent) of women aged 20 to 24 were married before age 18. Child marriage and early pregnancy are associated with a significantly lower likelihood of primary school completion, higher maternal mortality, chronic under-nutrition and poverty; 58 per cent of women live below the poverty line. Mozambique has the eighth highest HIV and AIDS prevalence in the world, with young women four times more likely to be HIV positive than young men.[10]

7. Quality and coverage of basic social security programmes have improved, and domestic budget allocations dedicated to social protection show positive trends. However, the 2015 target figure for social protection programme beneficiaries represents only 17 per cent of households living in poverty. Birth registration has increased with the inclusion of mobile registration during child health weeks, but 40 per cent of children under five are still not registered.[11]

8. Adolescents are the fastest growing segment of the population of Mozambique. Estimates indicate that 45 per cent of the population is under 15, and 52 per cent is below 18 years.[12] Yet they are also vulnerable. Almost half of girls were reported to be married or in union before age 18,[13] and epidemiologic models estimate that 120,000 adolescents are living with HIV of whom 80,000 are girls.[14] Estimates for 2014 show that 18,000 adolescents aged 15 to 19 were newly HIV infected that year.

9. Yet the potential for adolescents is huge. Engaged, educated, healthy and productive young people can help break multi-generational cycles of poverty and contribute to strengthening their communities. The 2013 national youth policy provides a holistic guide for increasing youth development and participation, including the promotion and provision of sexual and reproductive health information and services for adolescents – also one of the priority groups in the 2015-2019 national HIV plan.

10. Recurrent natural disasters, compounded by climate change, and political unrest and economic crisis exacerbate these vulnerabilities and result in displacement of families and disrupt access to health and education services almost yearly in different parts of the country. Girls and women are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, making vital their inclusion in resilience-building programming.

[10] INSIDA, 2009 and Spectrum annual estimations.
[11] INE, 2014.
[12] INE, 2010.
[13] DHS, 2011.
[14] The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) global AIDS report, 2014.

Programme priorities and partnerships

11. In response to these complex challenges, and in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), 2017-2020, the Government five-year plan (*Plano quinquenal do Governo*), 2015-2019, the Sustainable Development Goals and the UNICEF Strategic Plan, UNICEF and partners in consultation with the Government have developed a four-year programme to work for change for Mozambican children and women. With a strategic mix of interventions, the programme will drive progress towards the realization of children's rights by: (a) ensuring that children have access to critical social services and supplies to meet their basic needs; (b) promoting behavioural and social change; (c) advocating for changes in policies affecting children and the corresponding allocation and use of domestic resources; and (d) advancing systemic changes in health, education, water and sanitation and protection to address children's vulnerability to poverty and reduce persistent disparities. Programmatic focus is on the whole child, particularly the poorest and most marginalized. In Mozambique, however, this means many children, because vulnerability is deep and multi-dimensional poverty affects all the bottom four wealth quintiles, both in urban and rural contexts.[15]

12. The widespread presence of UNICEF on the ground, and its knowledge and access to the Government, make it well positioned to make valuable contributions to the children's agenda in Mozambique. After many years focusing on access to services it is clear that quality and equity are fundamental missing links in service delivery, along with closing gaps in access, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations. Across programme areas, renewed efforts are needed to gather data and evidence for child-centred programming, and to advocate for the use of evidence in policy and budget decision making. UNICEF will continue to catalyse partnerships, bringing together the Government, academia, civil society, the private sector and citizens, including children and young people, for common action in support of child-centred, gender-focused and equitable results.

13. UNICEF will advocate to ensure that the particular realities facing women, girls and adolescents are highlighted and addressed, especially vulnerable adolescent girls who will be the mothers and leaders of the next generation. This will link strongly to a cross-cutting focus on HIV and AIDS. Gender equality analysis and programming underpin UNICEF work in Mozambique, through programmatic responses to gendered bottlenecks and barriers and through policy engagement with the Government and partners. Given the country's vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change, the programme will also have a cross-cutting focus on disaster preparedness and risk reduction leading to resilience-building.

14. UNICEF will work at the national level to influence policy and evidence-based planning and budgeting, collaborating with donors and the Government through sector-wide approaches. It will also have a foot on the ground at the sub-national level, particularly in the provinces of Zambézia and Nampula, which have the largest child population and consistently poor performance against child indicators. Programmatic convergence in these provinces will have a particular focus on nutrition, child-centred,

[15] Preliminary data from the 2015 household budget survey (*inqerito de orçamento familiar*) shows that the wealthiest fifth of Mozambicans spend 14 times as much as the poorest.

gender-responsive, evidence-based planning, and the adolescent agenda, including child marriage, violence prevention and education.

Outcome 1: Nutrition

15. Nutrition is a flagship issue for the United Nations and UNICEF in Mozambique, and a multi-sectoral approach is urgently needed at national and sub-national levels. The programme will work to develop replicable, sustainable integrated models, tied to government systems and capacities, with clearly defined roles for long-term action.

16. UNICEF will support the Government and partners to improve nutritional status among children in the first 1,000 days by focusing interventions on adolescent girls and lactating and pregnant women in order to reduce stunting, especially in high burden provinces. In addition, UNICEF will leverage partners to ensure optimal nutrition among school-aged children.

17. Interventions will concentrate on fostering multi-sectoral partnerships; leveraging increased resource allocation; developing legislation, strategies and plans; supporting the implementation of nutrition policies: strengthening sub-national coordination; and supporting behavioural change at the community level to improve infant and young child nutrition. Success will rely on multi-sectoral action, working closely with United Nations sister organizations, the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition, the Nutrition Partners Forum, the Ministry of Health and civil society.

Outcome 2: Health

18. More and more children are surviving past their fifth birthday, but significant challenges remain to maximize and sustain child survival gains. The health outcome centres on strengthening capacities for quality service delivery, and leveraging government resources and partnerships for sustainable health systems nation-wide. At the same time, programme outputs will support complementary creation of demand for quality health services, ensuring that adolescent girls, families and communities strive to access consistent and sustainable health services, adopt safe and healthy practices, and demand quality assistance for the well-being of their children, in partnership with local civil society and professional associations. Synchronizing efforts with development partners, UNICEF will focus on improving maternal, new-born and child health interventions, including elimination of mother-to child transmission of HIV and paediatric HIV, and treatment of acute malnutrition. Critical to success will be the expansion of the health system with the national roll-out of the community health worker programme, currently reaching over half of communities located more than eight kilometres from a health facility.

19. UNICEF will support demand for and access to quality and integrated maternal and new-born health services such as immunization, vitamin A, deworming and quality child nutrition rehabilitation services. Efforts will continue towards improving standards and practice for the delivery and use of maternal and child health services, including the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and paediatric HIV, and supporting the implementation of evidence-based health sector policies, strategies, plans and budgets to build a stronger health and nutrition system, under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and the National Council to Combat HIV/AIDS.

Outcome 3: Water, sanitation and hygiene

20. Young children are most at risk from inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene, including menstrual hygiene among school-aged girls. Although Mozambique has made progress in reducing under-five mortality, diarrhoeal diseases remain one of the leading causes of child death. Strong evidence indicates that the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme is also an essential intervention to reduce under-nutrition, and is fundamental to improvements in health, education, gender equality and sustainable economic growth.

21. Perhaps more than any other programme area, the WASH outcome rests on demand creation, and the responsibility of individuals and communities to make their own change. Communities must claim and exercise their right to clean water and adequate sanitation facilities, and take responsibility for their use, maintenance and upkeep. Capacity development is needed in national, sub-national and local government institutions to create an enabling environment for scaling up coverage of water and sanitation services, and to leverage partnerships for water and sanitation in peri-urban areas and small towns. Concerted efforts will also be made to increase allocation of national resources and donors funding, since the government share of sector investments remains at only 20 per cent.

22. Working closely with the Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources, its provincial directorates and the Water Regulatory Council, UNICEF will ensure that people in targeted rural and peri-urban areas and small towns have sustainable access to safe drinking water while observing adequate sanitation and improved hygiene practices. Strategies will include support to develop partners' capacities in policy development, planning and monitoring, programme implementation, financial resource leveraging and budgeting. Interventions will focus on: expanding community access to sustainable water services, supporting scalable service-delivery models: improving sanitation and hygiene practices in schools and communities; promoting women and girls leadership and participation in WASH programmes; and strengthening partnerships for humanitarian action and response. Other partners will include the ministries of Health, Education and Human Development, Finance and State Administration.

Outcome 4: Basic education

23. The Government is committed to education. The sector receives the highest proportion of the state budget (over 15 per cent), supported by the partner common fund, FASE, in which UNICEF is a key actor. The current education strategic plan, 2012-2019, the sector's third, emphasises access, retention, quality and learning, targeting teacher capacity and absenteeism, governance and institutional development. Education coverage has increased during the past decade but quality, understood as acquiring basic literacy and numeracy competences, remains a significant concern. Addressing this will require substantial efforts to boost teacher motivation, increase access to quality early learning opportunities, and strengthen system accountability and capacity to implement plans.

24. UNICEF focuses on early learning and primary education in order to 'get the foundations right'. Efforts will aim at leveraging domestic resources and partnerships, strengthening systems and governance, and removing bottlenecks in teachers' capacity development, early learning and dropouts. The serious problems of teacher and learner absenteeism needs attention, as does the pupil-teacher ratio, which in many parts of the country sees 63 pupils to one teacher in the lower grades. The programme will aim to ensure that more children have equitable access to early learning opportunities, acquire

basic literacy and numeracy competencies, and complete the primary education cycle. Special focus will be placed on adolescent girls while interventions will link with work in violence prevention and child protection, disaster risk reduction and water and sanitation, supporting safe and healthy spaces for children to learn.

Outcome 5: Child protection

25. In child protection, UNICEF seeks the holistic protection of children through strengthening social and child protection systems. This work will ensure that children under five are registered, live in a family and receive social protection when living in poverty, and that all children, especially adolescent girls, are protected from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, with special emphasis on preventing and ending child marriage.

26. The case management system is the core of the child protection programme, working to identify the most marginalized children and refer them to social and child protection services, such as the civil registration and vital statistics, and other social and justice services, including social welfare, health and education, linking results for a holistic approach to child welfare. Programme success will rely on strengthening community-based responses, providing quality expertise to the Government to enhance multi-sectoral coordination; on leveraging commitments and capacities for quality delivery at decentralized levels, operationalizing the national child-sensitive social protection strategy and the national child protection strategy in target provinces; and on strengthening justice services for children. Innovation will be emphasized through electronic civil registration, social protection information management systems and case management to leverage action for wider coverage.

27. UNICEF will work in partnership with the Government, the United Nations and civil society to ensure that children are at the centre of development, while seeking recommitment that the poorest and most marginalized children, including children with disabilities, benefit from a more effective child and social protection system.

Outcome 6: Adolescents and social norms

28. At the core of the UNICEF focus on adolescents is the promotion and protection of rights, particularly the rights of adolescent girls, which are essential to help them adopt healthy and protective behaviours and to allow them to participate in development processes in their communities and families. Strategic behaviour and social change and social norms programming will cut across all sectoral areas, using community-based platforms and media to achieve success for adolescents, but also in the health, nutrition, protection, WASH and education outcomes. The critical issue of HIV, including sexual reproductive rights, will be emphasized with the goal of reducing the risk of HIV infection, particularly for adolescent girls, towards an HIV-free adolescent generation. At the same time, UNICEF will strive to ensure that adolescents and young people have the space, voice and influence they need to make a difference in their world.

29. UNICEF will build on past successes to increase participation by encouraging behavioural change among adolescents and young people, leveraging national and local partnerships to create synergies for change. UNICEF will catalyse multi-sectoral coordination around policies and strategies relevant to adolescents; leverage domestic and partner resources; promote institutional capacity-building in communication for development; and foster adolescent engagement and participation.

Outcome 7: Social inclusion

30. Work on reducing inequalities and child poverty is based on the understanding that exclusion results not from a random event, but rather from policy decisions. Supporting social inclusion requires looking not just at those who are excluded, but also at the agents and decision processes that maintain a system of inequity. The long-standing success of the UNICEF programme in public finance and planning for children will form the centre of social inclusion work, bolstered by a strengthened focus on research and evidence to create an even stronger advocacy platform for child rights and gender equality. The programme is built on a framework of promoting policy innovation based on evidence-generation, engagement with key players, and assessment of results, nurturing iterative processes of finding and fitting solutions that work. Convergence across these outcome areas will yield results in investment cases for children, inclusive growth, governance and child poverty.

31. UNICEF will work to ensure that all children benefit from evidence-based social and economic policies that address multi-dimensional poverty and advance the equitable realization of their rights. It will concentrate on leveraging research and evaluation on child poverty to inform policies on inclusive and equitable development, promoting partnerships with universities and think tanks, and empowering civil society organizations to use data and research for advocacy. At the same time, it will highlight capacity development in national and sub-national planning and budgeting for child and gender-focused investment; and evidence-generation to bolster the scaling up of and investment in sustainable cross-sectoral social protection policies and systems, such as the child grant.

Outcome 8: Programme effectiveness

32. Through programme effectiveness, UNICEF will support and consolidate wider programme gains. The country programme will address the standard effectiveness outputs of coordination, external communications, planning and monitoring linked with a strong gender focus, the harmonized approach to cash transfers, knowledge and learning. In addition, it will emphasize partnerships and advocacy, and key cross-cutting areas to support results across all outcomes. These will include innovation, resilience, climate change, disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and support to sub-national coordination.

Summary budget table

Programme component	*(In thousands of United States dollars)*		
	Regular resources	*Other resources*	*Total*
Nutrition	4 000	24 000	28 000
Health	10 000	42 000	52 000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	12 000	32 000	44 000
Basic education	12 000	20 000	32 000
Child protection	12 000	33 000	45 000
Adolescents and social norms	10 000	16 000	26 000
Social inclusion	8 000	5 000	13 000
Programme effectiveness	7 696	8 000	15 696
Total	**75 696**	**180 000**	**255 696**

Programme and risk management

33. This country programme document outlines UNICEF contributions to national results embodied in the Government five-year plan. It serves as the primary tool of accountability to the Executive Board for results and for resources assigned to the programme at country level. It has been designed in alignment with the UNDAF, 2017-2020, outlining the UNICEF contribution to government and United Nations priorities, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2017-2020.

34. During preparation of the country programme, 2017-2020, UNICEF undertook a risk assessment, identifying potential bottlenecks to implementation and to the organization's ability to deliver on results. The potential risks include insufficient evidence and weak monitoring systems to establish programme impact, political instability and internal conflicts, recurrent emergencies, partner fraud and misuse of resources, and inadequate resource allocation for child development. All of these will be addressed systematically throughout the programme cycle. A strengthened evaluation function will support additional programme research and evaluation, serving as a basis for policy advocacy to influence fiscal allocations. Disaster risk reduction has been mainstreamed through all outcome areas, and partner training in resource management will continue to be a priority.

35. The process of programme development has been deliberately participatory, including partners at all stages. Staff have been actively included in programme design and management planning.

Monitoring and evaluation

36. The country programme, 2017-2020, and the UNDAF include a robust monitoring framework, focused on continual measurement of progress against key benchmarks. Additionally, the UNICEF programme falls within the Eastern and Southern Africa

Regional Office regional compact, allowing for the measurement of commonly agreed regional indicators to support corporate priority results. Support for improved programme and humanitarian performance monitoring and capacity strengthening for UNICEF and partners will be central to the implementation and monitoring strategy.

37. UNICEF will continue its work with partner ministries to ensure relevant and reliable data are regularly produced at the national and sub-national levels, and the ongoing measurement of the situation of children. Key national data milestones in forthcoming years will include the comprehensive violence against children study (2016), the national census (2017) and demographic and health survey (2018-2019). At the same time, UNICEF will support evidence-based planning and budgeting at national and decentralized levels, aiding the Government and partners to identify excluded children, and orient budgets and plans to support their development. Special attention will be given to monitoring the impact of natural disasters and the political and economic crisis on the situation of children. Major programme evaluations will include: evaluation of the pivotal child health workers programme, the community-led total sanitation approach, and the soon-to-be-implemented child grant.

38. Finally, in coordination with the Government and partners, UNICEF will hold annual reviews and mid and end-term evaluation exercises to ensure that programme design remains optimally focused to achieve impact for children.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Mozambique-UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2017-2020

Convention on the Rights of the Child relevant articles: 6-7, 12, 19, 23-24, 26-30, 34, 37, 39-40, 42

The country programme is linked to all Strategic Plan outcomes.

Nutrition

National priorities: The Government five-year plan (*Plano quinquenal do Governo*): Priority 2 (Developing human and social capital); and Priority 3 (Promoting employment, productivity and competitiveness).

UNDAF 1. Vulnerable populations are more food secure and better nourished.
Indicators: Percentage of households with chronic food insecurity; Prevalence of chronic malnutrition among children under five years.

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
By 2020, children in the first 1,000 days in high burden provinces have improved nutritional status.	Prevalence of stunting among 0 to 59 month old children. *Baseline: 43%; Target 35%* Percentage of children aged 6 to 23 months receiving the minimum acceptable diet. *Baseline 13%; Target 20%* Percentage of children aged 0 to 5 months who are exclusively breastfed. *Baseline: 43%, Target 50%* Proportion of households consuming adequately iodized salt *Baseline: 45%; Target 80%*	All: National nutrition survey	1. By 2020, strengthened sub-national-level human and institutional capacities to coordinate, monitor and evaluate government multi-sectoral, food and nutrition security policies and action plans. 2. By 2020, evidence-based national nutrition-related policies, legislation, strategies, and plans are adopted and implementation monitored. 3. By 2020, service providers (public and private) and communities collaborate to provide infant and young child nutrition services.	Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition The Ministry of Health The Nutrition Partners Forum The United Nations Donors Civil society organizations Academic institutions	4 000	24 000	28 000

Health							
National priorities: The Government five-year plan (*Plano quinquenal do Governo*): Priority 2: (Developing human and social capital).							
UNDAF 6: People equitably access and use quality health, water and sanitation services. Indicators: Institutional maternal mortality ratio.							
UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
By 2020, people, particularly women and young children, have more equitably access and use quality health and nutrition services.	Percentage of districts with at least 80 per cent coverage of Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTP)-containing vaccine for children less than 1 year old. Baseline: 88%; Target: 95 %	Health management information system (HMIS)	1. By 2020, primary health care facilities have increased capacity to deliver quality integrated maternal and new-born health services. 2. By 2020, health workers at facility and community level are better equipped to provide and stimulate demand for quality integrated child-health services. 3. By 2020, health workers at community and primary-care level have increased capacity to identify, enrol and treat children with severe acute malnutrition. 4. By 2020, HIV positive pregnant and lactating women and children adhere to HIV services. 5. By 2020, health sector policy, strategy, plans and budgets use evidence to build a stronger health and nutrition system.	Ministry of Health The Health Partners Group The GAVI Alliance The Paediatric Association Civil society and academia	10 000	42 000	52 000
	Percentage of new-borns receiving post-natal care within two days of birth (postpartum). Baseline: 62%; Target 90%	Demographic and health survey (DHS)/HMIS					
	Coverage of antiretroviral treatment among all children aged 0 to 14. Baseline: 48%; Target 80%	The national malaria and HIV indicator survey (IMASIDA)					
	Percentage of Children aged 6 to 59 months affected by severe acute malnutrition reached with quality treatment, defined as children recovered. Baseline: 20% Target: 40%	DHS/surveys (target), HMIS analysis (achieved)					

Water and sanitation							
National priorities: The Government five-year plan (*Plano quinquenal do Governo*): Priority 2: (Developing human and social capital).							
UNDAF 6: People equitably access and use quality health, water and sanitation services. Indicators: Percentage of people using safe and sustainable water supply facilities in rural and urban areas; Percentage of people using safe and sustainable sanitation facilities in rural and urban areas.							
UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
By 2020, people in targeted rural, small towns, and peri-urban areas use sustainable and safe drinking water services, adequate sanitation and improved hygiene practices.	Percentage of people using safe and sustainable water supply facilities in rural and urban areas of target districts. Baseline: Rural52%; Urban-85% (2014); Target: Rural-75%; Urban-90% Percentage of people using safe and sustainable sanitation facilities in rural and urban areas of target districts. Baseline: Rural 15%; Urban 50% (2014); Target: Rural 50%, Urban 80% Percentage of people practising open defecation. Baseline: Rural 52%; Urban-13%; Total 39%; (2015); Target: Rural 30%; Urban 8%	AI[1]: National household surveys	1. By 2020, government capacity improved at national and decentralized levels in policy development, planning, monitoring, coordination, programme implementation, resource leveraging and budgeting for equitable and sustainable access to WASH services. 2. By 2020, communities in target rural and peri-urban areas, small towns, schools and health centres, have access to sustainable water services and scalable service delivery models. 3. By 2020, communities in target rural and peri-urban areas, small towns, schools and health centres, achieve open defecation free status, with increased access to adequate sanitation services, improved hygiene practices, scalable approaches and alternative financing mechanisms. 4. By 2020, government has increased capacity to lead and coordinate humanitarian WASH partnerships to meet the needs of impacted populations.	Ministries of public works, housing and water resources The Administration for Water Supply and Sanitation Development banks Bilateral partners, non-governmental organizations, and district governments	12 000	32 000	44 000

Education							
National priorities: The Government five-year plan (*Plano quinquenal do Governo*): Priority 2: (Developing human and social capital).							
UNDAF 3: Children, youth and adults benefit from an inclusive end equitable quality education system. Indicators: Gross completion rates EP2; Percentage of third grade students achieving the basic literacy and numeracy of the first cycle of primary education.							
UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
By 2020, more children have equitable access to early learning and complete primary education, acquiring basic literacy and numeracy competencies.	Gross completion rate for primary education (EP2). Baseline: 44%; Target 60%	Education management information system	1. By 2020, children aged 3 to 6 have increased access to early learning and school readiness programmes in selected districts in Zambézia. 2. By 2020, more primary teachers have improved pedagogical competencies and are better motivated to produce effective learning of literacy and numeracy. 3. By 2020, vulnerable children, especially adolescent girls, access and complete primary education in safe and conducive school environments. 4. By 2020, education duty-bearers at national, sub-national and school levels have increased capacity to plan, manage, monitor, and apply policies and regulations.	Ministry of Education and Human Development National Institute for Development of Education Provincial education authorities	12 000	20 000	32 000
	Percentage of third grade students achieving the basic literacy and numeracy of the first cycle of primary education. Baseline: 6.3% literacy; Target: 12% (literacy and numeracy)	National learning assessment					

Child protection

National priorities: The Government five-year plan (*Plano quinquenal do Governo*): Priority 1 (Consolidating national unity, peace and sovereignty); Priority 2 and Pillar I (Guarantee democratic rule of law, good governance and decentralization).

UNDAF 5: Poor and most vulnerable people benefit from a more effective system of social protection.
Indicators: Percentage of households living in absolute poverty; Gini coefficient.
UNDAF 4: Disadvantaged women and girls benefit from comprehensive policies, norms and practices that guarantee their human rights
Indicators: Percentage of women who consider justifiable any form of violence against women and girls; Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 who were first married or in union before age 18.

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
By 2020, the poorest and most marginalized children benefit from a more effective child and social protection system.	Percentage of children under-five whose birth is registered Baseline: 48%; Target: 80%	DHS	1. By 2020, a CRVS system is rolled out and operational nation-wide. 2. By 2020, a national child-sensitive social protection strategy operationalized in six target provinces. 3. By 2020, multi-sectoral collaboration with government and civil society to prevent and address violence against children, child marriage and other harmful practices is formed and functional. 4. By 2020, strengthened legal framework and justice services adequately respond to children in contact or in conflict with the law.	Ministries of justice, interior, state administration, gender, children and social action Donors First Lady's Cabinet Civil society	12 000	33 000	45 000
	Number of children enrolled into the new child grant programme Baseline: 0; Target: 50,000	Government report					
	Number of children, aged 0 to 17 years living in formal foster care (including adoption and guardianship). Baseline: 2,142; Target: 6,000	Supreme Court data					
	Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 married before age 18 and 15. Baseline: Less than 18 – 48%; Target: Less than 18 – 40 %. Baseline: Less than 15 – 14%; Target: less than 15 – 6%	DHS					
	Percentage of child violence, exploitation and abuse cases dealt with by the courts.	Supreme Court reports					

	Baseline: TBC Target: 15% increase						

Adolescents and social norms							
National priorities: The Government five-year plan (*Plano quinquenal do Governo*): Priority 2: (Developing human and social capital); and Priority 3 (Promoting employment, productivity and competitiveness).							
UNDAF 7: Adolescents and youth actively engaged in decisions that affect their lives, health, well-being and development opportunities. Indicators: Percentage of 15 to 24 year olds tested for HIV in past 12 months that received results.							
UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
By 2020, adolescents, particularly girls, their families and communities adopt key healthy and protective behaviours and are engaged in the development process.	Number of new infections in adolescents (ages 10 to 19) Baseline: TBC Target: 30% decrease compared to 2015 data	Spectrum yearly report	1. By 2020, multi-sector coordination on adolescent-sensitive issues, evidence-based policies and strategies, with a focus on HIV/AIDS, in place. 2. By 2020, disadvantaged children, adolescents and families benefit from behavioural change programming on integrated sector priorities. 3. By 2020, more adolescents engaged in participation platforms are empowered to promote child rights in focus provinces.	Ministries of information, health, education, and youth and sports The National AIDS Council The Civil Society Forum for Child Rights The Inter-Confessional Council of Religions Civil society	10 000	16 000	26 000
	Number of adolescents aged 15 to 19 who were tested for HIV and received their results in the past 12 months. Baseline: TBC Target: 20% increase from 2016 IMASIDA baseline	IMASIDA					
	Percentage of adolescent girls (ages 10 to 15) that have suffered violence and reported Baseline: 34 %; Target: 50%	DHS					
	Number of adolescent-initiated advocacy initiatives. Baseline: 0; Target 6	Non-governmental organization reports					

Social inclusion							
National priorities: The Government five-year plan (*Plano quinquenal do Governo*): Priority 1 and Pillar I (Consolidating national unity, peace and sovereignty).							
UNDAF 2: Poor people benefit equitably from sustainable economic transformation. Indicators: Gini index. **UNDAF 8**: All people benefit from democratic and transparent governance institutions and systems that ensure peace consolidation, human rights and equitable service delivery Indicators: Percentage of state budget allocated towards poverty reduction interventions.							
UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
All children benefit from evidence-based social and economic policies that address multi-dimensional poverty and advance the equitable realization of their rights.	Percentage of national budget allocated to key poverty reducing economic sectors. Baseline: 56 %; Target: 60 %	Government	1. By 2020, quality research, analyses and evaluation on multiple dimensions of child poverty and deprivations inform policies and strategies for inclusive and equitable development. 2. By 2020, national plans and budgets and legislative scrutiny bolster equitable child-focused investment. 3. By 2020, data and citizen participation inform effective sub-national government plans and budgets. 4. By 2020, evidence on efficiency and effectiveness inform the scale up of and investment in sustainable social protection systems and policies.	Ministry of Economy and Finance National Statistics Institute Parliament Provincial planning and budgeting directorates	8 000	5 000	13 000
	Growth elasticity of poverty index. Baseline:0.47 (2009); Target: 0.90	Government					
	Percentage of children living in extreme poverty.	Government Poverty Survey					

Programme effectiveness							
UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
Country programme is efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children.	Number of semi-annual programme review held. Baseline: 2; Target:2	Annual review reports	1. UNICEF staff and partners are provided guidance, tools and resources to effectively plan and monitor programmes. 2. UNICEF staff and partners are provided tools, guidance and resources for effective advocacy and partnerships on child rights issues with stakeholders. 3. Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied.	United Nations organizations Civil society organizations Media Private sector Academia	7 696	8 000	15 696
	Percentage of country programme results annually on track or achieved. Baseline: 85%; Target:90%	RAM database					
Total resources					**75 696**	**180 000**	**255 696**

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United Nations Children's Fund
Executive Board
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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Country programme document

Belize

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Belize is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $4,125,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $4,375,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2017 to 2021.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2016.

* E/ICEF/2016/13.

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Programme rationale

1. The preparation of the country programme of cooperation between UNICEF and the Government of Belize comes at an opportune time. The launch of the Sustainable Development Goals provided a global framework within which the country programme has been aligned with the national goals and priorities. Similarly, at the regional level, the country programme draws from such development initiatives as the Caribbean Community Strategic Plan 2015-2019 and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway. Furthermore, Belize has adopted an ambitious national development agenda, expressed in the National Development Framework for Belize: Horizon 2030, and the Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2019, which guided the preparation of this country programme.

2. For the first time, the country programme has been prepared as part of a regional effort to identify joint priorities affecting 17 English- and Dutch-speaking countries of the Caribbean. The key regional priority areas were identified in the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework, which is aimed at enhancing development results and impact by combining the comparative advantages of the United Nations system within a single strategic framework. Similarly, UNICEF identified common regional priority areas to be addressed by the respective country programmes in the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. This alignment is aimed to achieve a greater coherence of interventions, creating an environment for expedited knowledge exchange, enhanced programmatic visibility and impact and increased opportunity for regional resource mobilization initiatives.

3. The country is highly vulnerable to natural disasters and the effects of climate change, realities that were central in the formulation of the programme. Belize, incurs around 4 per cent loss of gross domestic product (GDP) due to natural disasters. Almost two in five Belizeans live in coastal areas including the islands (*cayes*), where the risk of flooding is higher due to rising sea levels, changing rainfall patterns and storm intensity. Furthermore, the negative effect of climate change on the stability of food and commodity prices was considered, given the prevalence of poverty and vulnerability in the country.

4. Belize is an open economy, with growth that ranged from 3 to 6 per cent between 2000 and 2013, and is highly dependent on fiscal spending and global economic trends.[1] Social and economic inequalities persist despite the country's upper-middle-income status. Poverty, which affects children disproportionately in terms of their growth and development, is high in Belize. There are significant disparities between urban and rural populations in a number of domains, including poverty, with the poorest 40 per cent of the population living mostly in rural areas. Poverty levels in the rural areas are twice the levels in urban areas (43 compared with 21 per cent) as a result of the lower education levels of the heads of households, the lower participation of women in the paid labour market and the larger proportion of ethnic minorities. Households with more children suffer higher deprivation rates; a child living in a household of four children is twice as likely to live in extreme poverty as a child in a household with one or two children.[2]

5. Data on poverty is not collected regularly, creating a barrier to the implementation of anti-poverty measures. The Government, in line with the language of the Sustainable

[1] World Bank Group, Systematic Country Diagnostics, January 2016.
[2] Country Poverty Assessment, 2009.

Development Goals, has been working towards improving the availability of data on multidimensional poverty with the aim of achieving and measuring progress towards reducing poverty. Such information could assist in the targeting and enhancing of social-protection measures, including the implementation of conditional cash transfer programmes.[3]

6. In recent years, considerable progress has been made in the area of early childhood development (ECD). In 2011, only 32 per cent of children between the ages of 36 and 59 months attended an early childhood education (ECE) programme, but 55 per cent attended by 2015. Disparities persist, however, as only one in five of the poorest children attend ECE; the Cayo district has the lowest ECE attendance rate, at 36 per cent. Further success is contingent upon the removal of barriers to the supply of services, such as a sufficient number of qualified professionals and the greater integration of the different ECD components. The recent adoption of a national ECD policy demonstrates the Government's commitment to strengthening ECD services.

7. An increased focus on secondary education resulted in an increase in the transition rate to secondary school to nearly 100 per cent, and attendance rates increased from 55 per cent in 2011 to 60 per cent in 2015. The secondary school dropout rate is 8 per cent, but disproportionately affects boys as compared with girls (10.3 versus 6.5 per cent). Only 60 per cent and 50 per cent of rural students have satisfactory levels of performance in English and mathematics, respectively, almost 20 per cent less than urban students, who sit the Caribbean Secondary Examinations for both subjects.

8. The lack of significant progress in increasing primary-school completion is of concern, with the completion rate remaining at around 75 per cent for the past five years. Violence in and around schools remains an issue, while repetition and dropouts also increased, with boys disproportionately affected. In the period 2013-2014, repetition rates in primary education stood at 7.4 per cent for boys and 5.4 per cent for girls,[4] resulting in nearly 20 per cent of students taking two additional years to complete primary school. Gains previously made in ensuring child-friendly schools and providing quality education need to be reaffirmed through equity-focused interventions.

9. Children with disabilities are among the most vulnerable. Thirty-six per cent of children aged 2 to 9 years were at risk of having one or more disabilities, whether physical, auditory, visual or learning. The Constitution prohibits discrimination on the grounds of disability, but this prohibition is not reflected in legislation. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports maintains an educational unit that offers limited special-education programs within the regular school system. There are two schools and four special education centres for children with disabilities. The social-protection schemes lack a disability focus, leaving this vulnerable population uncovered. A mapping of services conducted by the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation is aimed addressing this gap, and the implementation of relevant recommendations will be supported by the country programme.

10. Significant progress has been achieved in reducing child mortality over the past years. The under-five mortality rate decreased to 19.3 per 1,000 live births in 2015 and the

[3] Data from the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean, "Social Panorama of Latin America" briefing paper, 2012 and 2015, based on multiple-indicator cluster surveys (MICS) conducted in 2006 and 2011, respectively.

[4] Abstract of education statistics, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, 2015.

number of children that die before the age of 1 year has been reduced by 56 per cent since 1990. The progress in this area is a reflection of the considerable investment of resources and a commitment by a variety of stakeholders to address child mortality. Stunting, which is closely related to poverty and inequity, remains high in Belize, though improvements over the past five years have been noted, with the prevalence decreasing from 19.3 to 15 per cent. However, the stunting prevalence in rural areas is higher (17.5 per cent compared with 10.5 per cent) and extremely high in the southernmost district of Toledo (33 per cent).

11. In Belize, the non-registration of births of children is more pronounced in communities with limited access to birth registration facilities. Improvements in the system have been made in recent years, and in 2013, UNICEF and Vital Statistics embarked on a birth registration campaign, which registered previously unregistered children. However, 4 per cent of children remain unregistered. Children from poor families and those in rural areas are less likely to be registered, pointing at significant bottlenecks in terms of access and cost. Without birth certificates, children are deprived of access to certain essential services, jeopardizing their growth and development.

12. The prevalence of HIV among the population aged 15 to 49 years is estimated at 1.4 per cent. According to the Ministry of Health, in 2013, approximately 17 per cent of new HIV infections were to youth aged 15 to 24 years. The number of infected men is 50 per cent higher than that of infected women. The prevalence rate among pregnant women decreased from 0.81 per cent in 2009 to 0.31 per cent in 2012. Comprehensive knowledge among adolescents about HIV/AIDS has not increased, hovering at around 45 per cent. The newly adopted National Prevention Strategy for Adolescents and Youth 2015-2020 contains a series of recommendations to reach at-risk populations and inform the public about HIV/AIDS, strengthen adolescent health services and improve the capacities of service providers.

13. Crime and violence are major challenges, placing Belize among countries in the world with the highest homicide rates, with an average of 40 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants. Belize City recorded consistently rising homicide rates during the period 2007-2012, from 65.1 to 105.1 per 100,000 inhabitants. Children and young people are directly targeted and recruited by gangs, and many children get involved in violence at an early age. The National Women's Commission identifies the presence of gender-based violence in Belize encompassing child abuse, domestic violence, the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, commercial sex work, human trafficking, rape and sexual assault. Addressing violence in all its forms is high on the government agenda, with UNICEF playing a key role in ensuring the effective protection of children's rights in all anti-violence initiatives.

14. A number of initiatives, including a public campaign and programmes implemented by civil society and Government, with UNICEF support, have been aimed at changing social norms regarding the acceptance of violence as an appropriate discipline method. These have contributed towards a slight reduction in the number of children who have experienced any form of violent discipline method, from 70.5 per cent in 2011 to 65 per cent in 2015. However, the number of children experiencing severe physical punishment has increased to 6.5 per cent, providing valuable lessons that indicate the need to focus future efforts to ensure knowledge and the application of positive disciplinary practices.

15. Closely related to the issue of violence is access to justice. To date, specialized child justice facilities remain limited, leaving the majority of children without adequate access to the justice system. There is a widespread perception that adolescents, especially boys, are perpetrators of crime, in spite of evidence to the contrary (only 9 per cent of crimes in 2014

were committed by minors). The police recently instituted a curfew for all children in Belize City between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m., a controversial measure that garnered significant public support.

16. Currently, the Family Court lacks sufficient human and financial resources, equipment and child-friendly spaces to guarantee full respect for children's rights. This has led to the re-victimization of children by their having to repeat their testimony on multiple occasions and in intimidating environments, without the necessary support from parents, social workers and legal representatives. The lack of resources also contributes to high levels of impunity in Belize. The country has established the first child-friendly family court, with plans to build one more in 2016 and additional ones in each district in the medium term. This has created conditions for children to provide testimony in a protective environment and it is expected to lead to the reduction of crime and levels of impunity and the prevention of the re-victimization of children. The success of this measure will depend on the continued commitment and investment of all stakeholders.

17. The need for more quality, disaggregated, regularly collected data has been mentioned in all national strategic planning documents. Data is key to effective child rights monitoring as well as for monitoring progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The latest report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child was submitted in 2004, and several initiatives to present a new country report since then have been unsuccessful. Support will be required in order to meet the country's reporting obligations and obtain guidance from the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for further improvement in the situation of girls, boys and adolescents.

Programme priorities and partnerships

18. On the basis of the principles of equity and human rights, the country programme will support Belize in meeting the highest international standards of respect, protection and the fulfilment of children's rights. The programme is aimed at complementing the country's efforts in progressing to the fulfilment of the child-related Sustainable Development Goals and related regional and national development goals affecting children and their families. The proposed actions in this programme are strictly aligned with the regional United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework goals, contributing to the implementation of all four outcome areas: An inclusive, equitable and prosperous Caribbean; A sustainable and resilient Caribbean; A cohesive, safe and just Caribbean; and A healthy Caribbean.

19. The programme will contribute directly towards the achievement of the goals under the following strategic priorities, as outlined in the Horizon 2030 development framework: (a) Democratic governance for effective public administration and sustainable development; (b) Education for Development – Education for Life and Lifelong Learning; and (c) Economic resilience: Generating resources for long-term development. Finally, the programme is in line with the critical success factors of the Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy, namely, enhanced social cohesion and resilience and enhanced governance and citizen security.

20. Establishing effective partnerships will be essential to the achievement of these strategic objectives with, as the main partner, the Government of Belize through its line ministries and agencies responsible for the priority areas. In the context of the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework, partnerships with regional organizations

will be established to facilitate knowledge exchange and South-South collaboration, avoid the duplication of efforts and ensure that common objectives are achieved effectively and efficiently. Lastly, a key strategy of this programme is to establish and nurture partnerships with the civil society organizations (CSOs) that continue to play a key role in many child rights-focused activities.

21. UNICEF will closely partner with selected private-sector entities that share and embody child-rights principles. In the context of a middle-income country, collaboration with the private sector is paramount, as it provides access to alternative financing for child-related programmes, new and innovative ways to ensure that children's rights are realized through the promotion of corporate social responsibility, and the implementation of actions in line with the Child Rights and Business Principles.[5]

22. In line with the National Gender Policy and the UNICEF Gender Action Plan, 2014-2017, the programme will contribute to the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence, implement gender responsive ECD and education programmes, promote gender-responsive adolescent health and support gender-responsive legislation and policies relating to social protection, child budgeting and child-rights monitoring.

Child rights monitoring and reducing multidimensional poverty

23. Through this component, UNICEF aims to support the country in addressing issues of poverty affecting children and their families in all of its dimensions and strengthening data management and evidence generation for the purpose of child-rights monitoring and reporting, as well as for monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. This approach underlines the importance of the non-monetary poverty measurements that can reveal additional inequities and help develop more effective anti-poverty programmes. These non-monetary aspects are nationally defined and typically include, but are not limited to: access to quality housing, water and sanitation, education, health or participation. Belize is developing and adopting a national multi-dimensional poverty index based on the data collected from multiple indicator cluster surveys (MICS) in 2015, in view of meeting the Sustainable Development Goal targets and for practical implementation in identifying and targeting social programmes addressing multidimensional poverty.

24. The information and evidence generated from the data collection and research activities will be used to provide support for the development of an integrated social protection system to address multiple deprivations and gender inequalities faced by children and their families across the life cycle. Since the system will be cross-sectoral, the programme will establish multi-sector partnerships to build coherence and provide a coordinated response to the needs of the most vulnerable children, including those affected by the impact of climate change.

25. The programme will also contribute towards removing identified bottlenecks and barriers to increase and improve investments in children. The ongoing assessment of the public expenditure destined to children will result in an agreed methodology for identifying, measuring and reporting on gender-sensitive child-focused public investments. This will facilitate the efforts of the Ministry of Finance to improve allocative efficiency and the effectiveness of investing for children.

[5] The Child Rights and Business Principles were developed jointly by UNICEF, Save the Children and the United Nations Global Compact in 2012.

26. The programme will also contribute towards enhancing the national capacity for data collection, management and dissemination, as well as for data use and the regular generation of evidence-based analyses of the situation of children. The programme will provide technical and financial support to government and non-government partners, through partnerships with centres of excellence in the region, and by facilitating South-South collaboration to stimulate knowledge exchange on the implementation of enhanced disaggregated data collection and dissemination mechanisms.

Lifelong learning

27. This programme component takes a gender-perspective and human rights-based approach to inclusive, integrated social services across the life cycle, from maternal and child health interventions and quality ECD to relevant pre-schooling and primary and secondary education and for lifelong learning skills. With a focus on the reduction of disparities and the elimination of inequities, the national frameworks, policies and standards will be strengthened for the effective implementation of inclusive child and adolescent development strategies, with improved planning, monitoring and disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness.

28. The programme will address the gaps in services for children with disabilities as well as in parenting support to quality early learning experiences for all children. Uneven public expenditure without a clear rationale as to unit costs and rates of return to different levels of schooling, the efficiency of budget allocation and disproportionate spending on teacher salaries remain pressing issues. UNICEF will continue to provide support to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports to enhance the quality of investment in public education in order to achieve improved educational outcomes.

29. UNICEF will also support the Ministry and other key stakeholders to strengthen the organizational capacity to deliver equitable, inclusive and relevant education services, emphasizing (a) child-friendly school principles; (b) improved connectedness to schools (parental engagement, stakeholder buy-in); and (c) national standards for quality and inclusive learning.

30. The programme will also support and monitor the implementation of national standards to increase access to and retention in quality secondary education, including student support services, curriculum revision and the improvement of teaching practices. On the basis of the findings of an ongoing national study on out-of-school children, UNICEF will support the Government to implement a set of recommendations to strengthen the tracking system to monitor students' attendance in primary and secondary schools. This will entail the use of strategies to foster sustained changes in the behaviour of children and a focus on the effective participation of adolescents and the gender barriers constraining their access to and completion of secondary education.

Safety and justice for children

31. The third programme component will focus on three priority areas: (a) reducing violence against children; (b) strengthening the child justice system; and (c) enhancing the child protection system.

32. The programme will work towards the comprehensive reform of the child justice system. It will ensure that institutions responsible for the delivery of equitable justice are strengthened and that child-friendly justice spaces are functional. The planned interventions

will respond directly to the recommendations made in the "Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Belize 2016", including the staffing of juvenile courts with trained social workers in each district, the expansion of family courts into the districts and the development of protocols and procedures to take statements from children who are witnesses, victims and perpetrators.

33. The programme will also focus on preventing violence against children by reducing the many factors that make children of all ages vulnerable to violence, particularly gender-based violence. Efforts will primarily target adolescents (aged 10-17 years) with positive alternatives to violence through community-based programmes that include life and livelihood skills, sports for development and after-school support.

34. Additionally, because children under the age of 3 years are at the greatest risk for neglect, unresponsive care, severe injury and death from abuse, the programme will have a particular focus on this age group by empowering key actors across multiple sectors to provide services targeting these children and their families. This programme will provide substantive support for Care for Child Development initiatives and the development of key prevention messages.

35. The programme will continue efforts around the ongoing Campaign to End Violence against Children, aimed at changing public perceptions about violence against children and reducing its acceptance, by addressing social and cultural norms conducive to violence.

36. The programme will continue to strengthen a human rights-based child protection system that promotes children's development throughout the lifecycle. It will also support the inter-sectorial Child Protection Taskforce, whose mandate is to develop strategies to work with lawmakers and opinion-shapers at the national level, while promoting positive social norms and behaviours at the community level.

37. Additionally, a key component within this priority area will be the reduction of the number of children in institutions by the provision of support to the Government to strengthen laws and policies to fully integrate the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children. This will assist in the development of social-protection services to support and strengthen families to prevent separation and support family reintegration.

38. Lastly, UNICEF will work with main stakeholders to eliminate the bottlenecks preventing universal birth registration. Around 4 per cent of children remain unregistered, signalling the need to focus on increasing awareness about the importance of birth registration as well as removing administrative and financial barriers to birth registration. The programme will also support the implementation of the recommendations based on the findings of the ongoing bottleneck analysis.

Programme effectiveness

39. This component will support all activities relating to programme implementation and management, including technical and strategic assistance. It covers the cost of programme coordination and cross-cutting issues, such as programme performance monitoring, fundraising, advocacy and communication, gender mainstreaming and disaster risk reduction and resilience.

Summary budget table

Programme component	*(In thousands of United States dollars)*		
	Regular resources	*Other resources*	*Total*
Child rights monitoring and reducing multidimensional poverty	1 600	575	2 175
Lifelong learning	1 025	1 875	2 900
Safety and justice for children	1 150	1 775	2 925
Programme effectiveness	350	150	500
Total	**4 125**	**4 375**	**8 500**

Programme and risk management

40. This country programme document outlines UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

41. The programme is informed by data and evidence and aims to address child-rights priorities throughout the country. Programme interventions will be aimed at addressing disparities and inequities at all levels. Specific interventions will be supported subnationally, with the aim of influencing government policies and providing evidence for programme interventions that can be scaled up and replicated nationally. Taking into account the nature of results of the programme, UNICEF will encourage information exchange on supported programmes across the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean and identify priorities for multi-country activities, programmes and evaluations.

42. The programme will continue to address child rights at the central, regional and local levels. Effective management of the programme necessitates frequent travel and monitoring of the interventions implemented by partners out of the districts. The harmonized approach to cash transfers policy will be fully implemented.

43. The programme is aligned with the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework and the priority areas form a part of the country implementation plans developed jointly with the Government and other United Nations agencies in the country and implemented by joint programme management teams and operation management teams. UNICEF programme and operational management will be provided through regular reviews. UNICEF will enhance the quality of programming, effectiveness and efficiency by means of the regular monitoring of the progress, together with Government and other partners, aimed at the early detection of potential implementation bottlenecks and the definition of effective mitigation measures.

44. A common risk for the programme is presented by the potential deterioration of the global economic situation, which might divert attention and resources away from achieving the goals of the country programme. Traditionally, funding for primarily policy-level

activities in the area of social protection, social inclusion and child-rights monitoring has been lower than for other areas. Therefore, the country office will allocate a greater portion of its regular resources towards these areas, while directing the other resources towards child protection and education, areas that traditionally receive more external funding.

45. Another potential risk arises from the country's limited capacity for results-based management and reporting. In response, significant efforts will be directed towards the identification of international expertise, capacity-building, South-South cooperation and technical assistance, which will be used in the implementation of all activities, while ensuring that national capacities for results-based management and reporting are in place.

46. A significant external risk to the implementation of the programme is posed by the high likelihood of natural disasters and the impact of climate change. The valuable lessons learned during the flood emergencies and the UNICEF-supported response in 2015 as well as in previous emergencies were taken into account in the programme, which will ensure that emergency actions and contingencies are embedded in the workplans and agreements with national stakeholders.

Monitoring and evaluation

47. The results and resources framework will form the basis for monitoring and evaluation. Programmatic workplans, annual management plan indicators and the online Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, along with the accompanying costed evaluation plan, define all priority monitoring, research and evaluation activities.

48. UNICEF mid-year and annual reviews will be used to assess progress and make programmatic adjustments. Regular UNICEF-specific programme visits, as well as joint programme monitoring field visits with other United Nations organizations and government partners, will be conducted to verify and discuss progress on achieved results. Quarterly inter-agency programmatic meetings will be used to consolidate inputs for Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework monitoring and reporting.

49. The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals reinforce the need to monitor closely the situation of boys and girls, including the development of disaggregated information on the most disadvantaged and excluded, to inform decision-making on the investments needed and the implementation of policies and programmes to improve their wellbeing. Underpinning all programme areas will be support for data collection and information on the status of women and children to inform strategic decision-making and support the Government to establish baselines for the set of new Sustainable Development Goal indicators and measure progress toward the country's targets.

50. Multiple disaggregation of data across all poverty dimensions will give visibility to existing disparities, multidimensional poverty and gaps in equity faced by children, so that specific pro-child policies and programmes can be implemented, reviewed and adjusted.

51. With partners, UNICEF will establish knowledge-management systems that facilitate access to data on children and women and support quality, timely national reporting on international human rights conventions (Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, universal periodic review) and follow up their recommendations. The systematic management and dissemination of the information will be supported to end the invisibility of children whose rights are systematically violated. Guided by a monitoring strategy, UNICEF will support the continuous use of information from administrative sources, surveys, evaluations and

research as well as from new sources, such as big data or data from crowdsourcing or U-Report, by decision-makers at all levels to generate consensus on the need for strengthened policies, enhanced resource allocations, gender equality and sustained investments in children and women.

52. The formulation of the National Plan of Action for Children 2016-2030 will support the establishment of an interministerial monitoring and evaluation committee which will oversee and coordinate the multi-sector implementation of pro-child policies and monitoring and evaluation.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Belize - UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2017-2021

Convention on the Rights of the Child: articles 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 11, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26-29, 30-38 and 40-54 **National priorities:** (related Sustainable Development Goals; other internationally recognized goals; and/or national goals) **Sustainable Development Goals:** 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16 and 17 **Horizon 2030 strategy:** Democratic governance for effective public administration and sustainable development; Education for Development–Education for Life; Economic resilience: generating resources for long-term development; The Bricks and the Mortar: Healthy Citizens and a Healthy Environment **National Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy:** Critical Success Factor 2: enhance social cohesion and resilience; Critical Success Factor 3: sustained or improved health of natural, environmental historical and cultural assets; Critical Success Factor 4: enhance governance and citizen security
UNDAF outcomes involving UNICEF: **Priority area 1: An inclusive, equitable and prosperous Caribbean** Access to quality education and lifelong learning increased, for enhanced employability and decent and sustainable work opportunities Access to equitable social protection systems, quality services improved **Priority area 2: A sustainable and resilient Caribbean** Policies and programmes for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and universal access to clean and sustainable energy in place Inclusive and sustainable solutions adopted for the conservation, restoration and use of ecosystems and natural resources **Priority area 3: A cohesive, safe and just Caribbean** Capacities of public policy and rule of law institutions and civil society organizations strengthened Equitable access to justice, protection, citizen security and safety reinforced **Priority area 4: A healthy Caribbean** Access to quality healthcare services and systems strengthened Laws, policies and systems introduced to support healthy lifestyles among all segments of the population
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome(s): **Outcome 1: Health; Outcome 2: HIV/AIDS; Outcome 3: Water, sanitation and hygiene; Outcome 4: Nutrition; Outcome 5: Education; Outcome 6: Child protection; Outcome 7: Social inclusion**

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome. regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
1. By 2021, national systems and policies effectively address multiple deprivations affecting the most vulnerable boys and girls across the lifecycle and build their resilience, through adequately funded social investments and rights-based quality social policies based on adequately disaggregated data on children.	Proportion of children covered by social protection systems of the total children targeted by social protection systems Baseline (2015): 52% (estimated coverage of indigent poor children) Target (2021): 90%	Independent evaluation reports, national government and non-governmental organization reports	1.1 Strengthened national and subnational human and institutional capacities to develop and deliver inclusive and equitable social-protection systems to strengthen the resilience of and protect boys and girls from all forms of poverty and social exclusion 1.2 Improved national and subnational capacities to systematically collect, analyse and use disaggregated data and other forms of information to monitor, inform policy decisions and report on the situation of children and child poverty in all of its dimensions, using an equity-based approach 1.3 Enhanced national systems that govern the volume, efficiency and impact of invested resources towards building the resilience of the most vulnerable boys, girls and adolescents	Ministry of Human Development Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation , United Nations agencies, Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, World Bank, Statistical Institute of Belize, Ministry of Labour Local Government and Rural Development	1 600	575	2 175
	Social expenditure for the sectors: social protection, health, education and ECD, as a percentage of GDP and budget Baselines (2015): Education: 7.03% of GDP; 20.1% of budget Health: 3.39% of GDP, 9.69% of budget ECD and social protection baselines to be established in August 2016	National budget execution data					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	Targets (2021): 20% increase in each sector						
	Number of children, by sex, covered by the social protection system Baseline (2015): 3,000 (households) Target (2021): 6,000 (households)	Collected annually by the Ministry of Human Development Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation using the FamCare Beneficiaries database					
2. By 2021, national legislation is implemented to prevent, mitigate and address violence and other childhood abuses and the justice, education, public health, security and other sectors observe children's rights to this protection.	Girls (15-17 years) who have ever experienced sexual violence Baseline (2015): 401 (2015) Target (2021): 20% reduction	Ministry of Human Development Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation	2.1 Increased country capacity to promote and ensure justice and systems that enable the prevention and treatment of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect 2.2. Strengthened political commitment to legislate and budget for strengthening interventions that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect 2.3.Increased capacity of rights holders and duty bearers to foster positive practices and norms to protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect	Supreme Court, Family Court, Legal Aid Department, RESTORE Belize, Department of Human Services, Department of Police, Child Development Foundation, Vital Statistics Unit, Belize Cane Farmers Association, Labour Department	1 150	1 775	2 925
	Children in detention per 1,000 child population child population Baseline (2015): 100 (2015) Target: (2021) 20% reduction	Calculated annually from population estimates and administrative records, Ministry of Human Development Social Transformation and					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
		Poverty Alleviation, FamCare					
	Children (0-17 years) living in residential care, with disaggregated target ages and a specific target for children 0 to 3 years Baseline (2015): 75 boys and 105 girls (2015) Target (2021): 20% reduction	Child activity survey, Labour Department database					
	Children (1-14 years) who experience violent disciplinary practices Baseline (2015): 65% Target (2021): 30% reduction	MICS					
3. By 2021, the most disadvantaged boys, girls and adolescents have improved their education and developmental outcomes and access equitable and inclusive learning environments across the life cycle, including in emergencies.	Percentage of students who are overage for grade in primary education, by gender Baseline (2015): 7.5% (6.2% girls; 8.6% boys;) Target (2021): 4%	Administrative data	3.1. Strengthened national frameworks, policies, plans and standards to increase access to high-quality, equitable, inclusive and holistic ECD, learning and care environments for girls and boys (0-8 years) and their families by 2021, including in emergencies. 3.2 Enhanced capacity of national and subnational entities in education planning, collection and use of data, system monitoring and budgeting to provide equitable, inclusive and relevant education for all children and adolescents by 2021	Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Human Development Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation National Committee for Families and Children	1 025	1 875	2 900
	Percentage of children (36-59 months) who are on track in at least three of four development domains, total and disaggregated (as relevant) by gender, poorest quintile, urban/rural Baseline (2015): 82.5% (to be disaggregated in June 2016) Target: (2021): 90%	MICS; administrative data					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	Gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education, by gender Baseline (2015): 43.5% (43.8% girls; 43.2% boys) Target (2021): 60% (boys and girls)	Administrative data	3.3. Strengthened organizational capacity of key stakeholders to design and deliver equitable, inclusive and relevant education services, transitioning strategies and protective learning environments, including in emergencies, for all children and adolescents, within rights- based educational frameworks and principles by 2021				
	Percentage of students experience bullying, corporal punishment, harassment, violence, sexual discrimination and abuse Baseline (2015): To be established in 2016 Target (2021): reduction of 50%	Administrative data; specialized surveys					
	Lower-secondary-education completion rate by gender Baseline (2015): 63.5% (69.1% girls; 58.1% boys) Target (2021): 40%	Administrative data					
4. Programme effectiveness	Number of participatory annual reviews conducted during the programme cycle Baseline: 1 per year Target: 1 per year	UNICEF monitoring	4.1 Key children's and women's issues are brought to the attention of target audiences for advocacy and resource mobilization.	Line ministries, United Nations agencies, regional/international organizations, CSOs	350	150	500
Total resources					**4 125**	**4 375**	**8 500**

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United Nations Children's Fund
Executive Board
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14-16 September 2016
Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Country programme document

Brazil

Summary

The draft country programme document (CPD) for Brazil is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and comment. The draft CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $4,495,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $90,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2017 to 2021.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2016.

* E/ICEF/2016/13.

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Programme rationale

1. Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world in population and geographical area, with 201.5 million people, of whom 59.7 million are children. Over one half of all children are Afro-descendants and children account for more than one third of the country's 821,000 indigenous people. Brazil has made impressive gains in child rights in recent years, yet remains an unequal country where certain groups of children and women have not yet benefited from these gains.

2. In 1990, Brazil approved its Statute of the Child and Adolescent, which is largely in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Brazil is a forerunner in the provision of public services to its citizens: the Federative Pact operates through decentralized policies and services with multiple tiers from federal to state to municipal levels. Capacities across subnational levels vary greatly, with significant differences between municipalities and regions. The key value proposition of UNICEF is working across these tiers to monitor policy implementation and build capacities at the municipal level, while working with federal and state governments on policy development and advocacy.

3. Over 26 million people were lifted out of poverty from 2003 to 2013. However, 25.9 per cent of children are poor, and 15.8 per cent extremely poor. Brazil also faces marked inequalities between rural and urban areas: 74.2 per cent of children in rural areas live with deprivations of one or more rights guaranteed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Only 23.6 per cent of urban dwellers face such deprivations, although they are increasingly exposed to violence and homicide.

4. The impartial voice of UNICEF and its constructive partnership with the Government may be key in any political transition to maintain the gains in child rights and continue to expand and strengthen policies. This is particularly important for the most disadvantaged children: Afro-descendants; indigenous children; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) children; children in dispersed rural communities in the Northeast and Amazon regions; and children in marginal areas of large cities.

5. Between 1990 and 2012, the infant mortality rate fell by 68.4 per cent, reaching 14.9 per 1,000 live births in 2012. Nevertheless, indigenous children are twice as likely to die before the age of one year than the average child. Some 40 per cent of indigenous children in the Amazon are affected by chronic malnutrition, against the national average of 7 per cent.

6. Child overweight or obesity is increasing, affecting one third of children aged 5-9 years. Studies link obesity and poverty, due to a lack of knowledge on healthy habits and insufficient access to healthier food options, sports and recreational facilities.

7. Vertical transmission of HIV halved between 1995 and 2013. Between 2004 and 2013, the number of new HIV cases among boys and girls aged 15-19 years increased by 53 per cent. Boys who engage with same-sex partners are 10 times more likely to contract HIV than heterosexual youth of the same age.

8. The maternal mortality ratio is 61.5 per 100,000 live births; 14 per cent of all maternal deaths occur in women under 20 years old. Pregnancy among girls aged 10-14 years is rising, with birth rates in this age bracket increasing from 8.6 to 9.7 per 1,000 live births between 2004 and 2012.

9. Although the national percentage of children who obtained their birth certificates by their first birthday increased from 66 to 96 per cent between 1990 and 2014, only 58 per

cent of indigenous children are registered in their first year of life, and only 70 per cent by age 10 years.

10. The percentage of school-age children who are out of school fell by 64 per cent (from 19.6 to 6.9 per cent) from 1990 to 2014. Nonetheless, some 3 million children are still out of school. They are mostly poor, Afro-descendants, indigenous and/or living in traditional communities or marginal areas of large cities. Almost 40 per cent of children with disabilities were out of school in 2010.

11. In 2014, close to 8 million children in primary and secondary school were two or more years behind their grade level, a main cause of dropout. Other causes are discrimination, child labour, pregnancy, inadequate curricula, undervalued teachers and poor infrastructure. Only one third of all schools in Brazil have safe and inclusive sports grounds and only one fourth have adequate facilities for children with disabilities.

12. The National System of Socio-Educational Services, charged with care of over 23,000 children in conflict with the law as of 2013, is an important framework requiring improvement. Some 15,500 children were deprived of liberty. From 1990 to 2013, the number of adolescent homicides increased by 110 per cent, from 5,000 to 10,500 annually, giving Brazil the second highest absolute number of adolescents killed in the world. Afro-descendant boys are almost four times more likely than whites to be victims of homicide. Despite the above, the majority of the Brazilian population is in favour of reducing the age of criminal responsibility.

13. Adolescents represent 11 per cent of the population, and have their right to participation recognized in the Constitution, the Statute of the Child and Adolescent and the Youth Statute. More autonomous, self-organized forms of adolescent mobilization have emerged over the past few years, yet adolescents' actual rate of participation remains low.

14. Different forms of discrimination and prejudice affect the lives of children; when crossed with gender norms, disparities are higher among girls and LGBT children. Afro-descendant and indigenous groups are usually the worst off for all indicators. Gender inequalities also have perverse effects: Brazil ranks fifth in a list of 83 countries for female homicide rates (4.8 homicides per 100,000 women) and fourth globally in absolute numbers of girls married below the age of 18 years. Between 2011 and 2012, the number of victims of homophobic violence increased from 1,713 to 4,851 (over 183 per cent), with 61 per cent of victims between 15 and 29 years of age.

15. Brazil has a fairly predictable cycle of hydro-meteorological hazards that affect thousands of lives and which may be deepened by the impacts of climate change. A comprehensive legal instrument is in place to protect children in emergencies, in line with the UNICEF Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, but implementation remains a challenge. Recent environmental and health emergencies, such as the Zika virus outbreak, reinforce the need for prevention, preparedness and resilience strategies, as well as improvement in indicators for water, sanitation and hygiene, vector-control measures and permanent situation monitoring.

16. The media environment is open to sharing the child rights agenda in Brazil. Access to television is widespread and Internet, social media and cell phones are increasingly used to reach communities and service providers in remote areas. Civil society organizations have strong networks in Brazil.

17. Evaluations confirm that UNICEF adds value in evidencing the gaps in social policies through evidence and data-based advocacy, coupled with its strong

communication and outreach capabilities. The UNICEF Municipal Seal of Approval and Platform of Urban Centres initiatives have helped thousands of municipalities to prepare targeted and results-based action plans to close the equity gaps affecting children. To better integrate these methodologies into the overall country programme, most of the indicators used at local level for over 15 years will now be used as indicators for the new country programme.

Programme priorities and partnerships

18. Within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, equity is the guiding principle of the country programme, which aims to support Brazil in the realization of rights for the most excluded children. The goal of the country programme, which is aligned with national priorities, is to support Brazil to facilitate the generation and sharing of knowledge to identify the most excluded children and monitor and measure progress to fulfil their rights. Building on the UNICEF proposition, the programme will focus on targeted population groups, be implemented using regional strategies and measure success using the indicators derived from the UNICEF Strategic Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals. This engagement to provide capacity development and policy advice at municipal, state and federal levels is in line with the five pillars of the United Nations Partnership for Development Framework (UNPDF).

19. The programme structure takes into account the outcomes in the UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2014-2017 and also considers emerging trends affecting the lives of children in Brazil including climate change and urbanization. The country programme responds to the UNICEF Gender Action Plan and contributes to the national gender policy commitments to gender-responsive adolescent health and gender mainstreaming in the areas of violence prevention, social protection and inclusion.

20. The present programme structure is based on an analysis of challenges detailed above, solid evidence, a detailed assessment of bottlenecks that prevent children from exercising their rights, lessons learned and inputs from a wide range of partners and government counterparts. It targets specific population groups: children who are excluded from public policies and services; those who have access to social policies but lack quality services; victims of violence, discrimination, exploitation, neglect and abuse; and children vulnerable to disasters. The programme incorporates strategies for the promotion of universal rights and engaging rights-holders, 'millennials', the urban middle class, individual donors, knowledge centres, United Nations agencies and the private sector to advance positive changes which can potentially impact the lives of all children in Brazil.

21. Brazil is a model for other countries and evidence shows that UNICEF has a key value proposition to foster child rights-based cooperation and knowledge exchange between Brazil and other countries. National institutions such as the Brazilian Cooperation Agency have praised the role of UNICEF in supporting South-South cooperation as a means to share Brazil's good practices with and to learn from other countries, particularly in the areas of social policy and emergency response. In addition, UNICEF will continue to facilitate horizontal in-country exchanges of good practices.

22. Through integrated programmes, UNICEF expects to bring about more innovative, sustained and integral change in support of children's rights. The proposed programme consists of four components: (a) enhanced policies for excluded children; (b) quality social policies for vulnerable children; (c) prevention of and response to extreme forms of violence; and (d) engaged citizenry and participation.

23. These programme components will use innovation and partnerships with government, civil society, United Nations agencies, knowledge centres, South-South cooperation, media and the private sector as key strategies. They will build on the lessons learned from the significant local presence and local delivery strategies (Municipal Seal of Approval and Platform of Urban Centres) and the ability of UNICEF to work with all three levels of government to ensure that national and state policies effectively reach disadvantaged children at the municipal level. The programme components also include advocacy to give priority to children in disaster risk reduction, disaster prevention and emergency response.

Enhanced policies for excluded children

24. Despite impressive national averages, a percentage of children remain disenfranchised from this progress. The drivers of exclusion include race and ethnicity, region of residency, gender and sexual orientation, physical and social conditions, nationality and religion. Behind these elements is discrimination as a root cause of exclusion, which has a significant impact on vulnerable populations and precludes them from accessing services.

25. The key bottlenecks leading to the exclusion of these children are related to: (a) the absence of data, evidence and research on the most excluded groups; (b) the limited knowledge of rights-holders on how to demand their rights; and (c) the limited qualifications of some policymakers to formulate and finance specific policies targeting the most vulnerable.

26. Addressing the needs of this specific group requires differentiated and evidence-based policies and identifying those marginalized from the benefits of social policies. The outcome of this component is that, by 2021, Brazilian children excluded from public policies and programmes effectively benefit from enhanced and inclusive public policies and services, actively participating in processes related to their full development.

27. UNICEF will rely on its added value in producing and effectively disseminating data analysis and evidence to influence the formulation of differentiated policies. This includes developing capacity at the municipal level. UNICEF and United Nations agency partners will also work to screen and track budgets and expenditures for enhanced public financial management for children.

28. UNICEF will produce data and evidence to support policymakers to design tailored policies and programmes that reach the most excluded, including affirmative actions and initiatives that ensure access to those still out of reach. After tackling the bottlenecks identified, UNICEF will work with excluded children and families to empower them to demand their rights through social mobilization and advocacy activities.

29. The main counterparts will be the Ministries of Health, and Education and of Social Development, other human rights-related bodies, state and municipal authorities, knowledge centres, United Nations agencies, civil society and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency.

Quality social policies for vulnerable children

30. The second group of children targeted by the country programme includes those who have access to basic services but of precarious quality. The majority of these children reside in semi-arid and the Amazon regions, and peripheral areas of the large cities.

31. The key bottlenecks contributing to poor-quality services affecting this group of children include: (a) prevalence of social norms, cultural practices, behaviours and environments not conducive to good practices; (b) limited information on the part of duty-bearers; (c) low qualifications of social sector professionals, especially at subnational levels; (d) inadequate infrastructure; and (e) limited cross-sectoral coordination between social assistance, education and health services.

32. This component aims to ensure that these children benefit from quality public policies, programmes and strategies that promote gender and racial equality in health, education and social protection, and actively participate in processes related to their full development.

33. Racial discrimination is a key element leading to school dropout, in addition to age-grade distortion, child labour, pregnancy and lack of relevant and culturally adapted curricula. Special attention will be given to discriminatory practices that hinder the provision of quality social services to children.

34. UNICEF and partners will disseminate knowledge on healthy practices and humanization of health services among families, communities, civil society, government agencies and health professionals, including by promoting campaigns and capacity-building actions. Also included in this component are prevention of HIV/AIDS and congenital syphilis; preventive measures associated with vector control and improvement of basic hygiene and sanitation to avoid vector- and water-borne diseases; and prevention of adolescent pregnancy.

35. The programme will foster the development of intersectoral policies for social protection that address specific needs of the most vulnerable populations in an integral manner. The programme will develop models adapted to the local context and strengthen the capacities of social assistance professionals.

36. The main counterparts will be the Ministries of Health and Education, state and municipal authorities and civil society.

Prevention of and response to extreme forms of violence

37. The third group of children left behind are those at greatest risk of extreme forms of violence. Statistics show that violence against children occurs mostly within the home. In the case of adolescents, violence is also common in public spheres and institutions such as health units, schools, detention centres and social assistance units. Given the high number of adolescent homicides and the pervasive tolerance of violence by society, violence merits special consideration in this country programme.

38. The main bottlenecks related to the prevalence of violence in Brazil include: (a) social norms and cultural practices leading to the acceptance of violence, racism and discrimination; (b) gaps in or inadequacy of policies and legislation in preventing violence, supporting victims and investigating rights violations; (c) insufficient or ineffective violence notification, prevention and response systems, including existing difficulties to implement intersectoral policies.

39. The aim of this component is that by 2021, the Brazilian population rejects the use of violence against children and the country's child protection system is strengthened to prevent and respond to violence against children.

40. UNICEF and counterparts will address high rates of adolescent homicides; gaps in the judicial systems; high levels of violence in the community; widespread violence against children and adolescents by the military police; weak systems for provision of care to child victims, including those affected by physical, sexual and gender-based violence; and structural discrimination against minority and discriminated groups, including but not limited to Afro-descendants, indigenous populations and LGBT youth.

41. UNICEF will act as a neutral broker in a socially conservative context to support intersectoral action to prevent and respond to violence. The bottlenecks identified in Brazil's Rights Guarantee System will be addressed by promoting change in social norms and cultural practices.

42. Technical assistance will be provided to generate reliable evidence to inform advocacy, promote and protect current legislation and policy reform in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and other global commitments. This will include an innovative partnership with the Court of Justice of the Federal District on the protection of child rights and related protection systems.

43. The main programme counterparts will be the Parliament, security and justice sectors, human rights-related governmental bodies, media, civil society and United Nations agencies.

Engaged citizenry and participation

44. Increasing its public reach can expand the ability of UNICEF to influence public policy, fuel social engagement and adolescent participation and drive the growth of private and public resources, thus contributing to the realization of children's rights by involving and stimulating the participation of children, adolescents and millennials and their families, individual donors and private sector. Brazil has the fifth highest number of Internet users in the world; during 2015, UNICEF Brazil saw its following on social media double, and it has one of the highest rates of engagement by its supporters of country offices and National Committees for UNICEF. This demonstrates that there is increased potential for dialogue with new audiences, including the private sector, to advance an inclusive agenda for children's rights.

45. The main bottlenecks to the engagement of children, families, millennials, individual donors and private sector partners in driving public action for the realization of child rights include: (a) the indifference of segments of Brazilian society towards the plight of the most vulnerable and excluded children; (b) insufficient information and misperceptions by segments of society on the reality faced by the most vulnerable children, including violations of their rights; (c) limited scope for private sector social investment related to children's rights; (d) perceived lack of compatibility between the private sector and the work of UNICEF; (e) inadequacy of participation channels for children; and (f) a low level of familiarization of rights-holders with ways to contribute effectively to public debates.

46. The aim of this component is to guarantee that vulnerable boys, girls, adolescents and families enjoy increased public support. A broader number of Brazilians will be aware of and sensitized to the realities of vulnerable and excluded children. Individual donors and private sector partners will further their non-financial contributions to advance the work of UNICEF. Lastly, a wide base of adolescents will be mobilized and enjoy adequate knowledge and more opportunities to participate in public forums for decision-making processes that affect them.

47. The programme will build on the extensive and increasing use of the Internet and mobile devices in Brazil and ongoing global efforts to invest in innovative means to engaging citizens in child rights.

48. All strategies in the UNICEF Strategic Plan and Global Communication and Public Advocacy Strategy will be utilized to engage various stakeholders and promote the right to participation. With private sector partners, media networks (digital and mass media), civil society groups with large memberships and youth and adolescent networks, in addition to various implementing partners, UNICEF will promote evidence-based public advocacy campaigns that inform, inspire and involve the Brazilian public, including key stakeholders, and will employ advocacy and social mobilization for more institutionalized spaces for child and adolescent participation.

49. The achievement of various programme results is largely dependent on the establishment of partnerships with local organizations, the media and public policy managers. UNICEF has been working closely with private sector partners to help them orient their skill sets, reach and mobilizing capacity to contribute towards realizing child rights. This strategy will continue, by increasing their awareness of child rights and of violations, and by strengthening their corporate social responsibility agendas accordingly.

Programme effectiveness

50. In support of the four programmatic components, this outcome will ensure efficient and effective programme management, enhanced external relations, institutional communication, monitoring and evaluation, strategic planning, gender mainstreaming, sports for development and resilience. This component will contribute to expansion of Brazil's South-South cooperation efforts for children's rights.

Summary budget table

Programme component	*(In thousands of United States dollars)*		
	Regular resources	*Other resources*	*Total*
Enhanced policies for excluded children	1 800	15 000	16 800
Quality social policies for vulnerable children	445	34 000	34 445
Prevention of and response to extreme forms of violence	1 800	13 000	14 800
Engaged citizenry and participation	450	14 000	14 450
Programme effectiveness	--	14 000	14 000
Total	**4 495**	**90 000**	**94 495**

Programme and risk management

51. The Brazilian Cooperation Agency, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, leads the overall coordination of the country programme and the UNPDF, delegating the coordination of specific programme technical aspects to the line ministries. UNICEF will work with relevant ministries and departments at national, state and municipal levels to

ensure efficient and effective programme implementation. Annual or rolling workplans will be agreed with partners, and closely monitored through meetings and field visits. Annual reviews will be held and minutes circulated.

52. A risk management strategy will be operationalized to mitigate the following risks to the achievement of programme results: diminishing funding from local fundraising; weak capacity and coordination of partners; high costs of implementing the harmonized approach to cash transfers; and the national elections scheduled for 2018 and the subsequent state and municipal elections. Enterprise risk management will include risks and mitigation actions to be taken when situations arise.

53. Continued efforts will be in place to strengthen partnerships with civil society, with capacity and financial assurance measures put in place as UNICEF funding is channelled through them to implement the country programme.

54. The early warning and early action system will be systematically updated.

55. This country programme document outlines UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at country level. Accountability of managers at the country, regional and headquarter levels with respect to country programmes are reflected in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

56. UNICEF will continue to operate at national and subnational levels, through its presence in Brasilia and in field offices. The local presence is necessary to influence evidence-based policy development for the most excluded and vulnerable children. The country programme has an equity approach, which intends to foster a more integrated way of working, moving away from a sectoral design.

57. The resource mobilization trend for UNICEF shows steady growth and expects gradually increasing local fundraising, which will contribute to the country programme in Brazil and for other countries.

Monitoring and evaluation

58. The results and resources framework, integrated monitoring and evaluation plan and costed evaluation plan will define all priority monitoring, research and evaluation activities. Annual reviews with key partners will provide inputs to UNICEF annual reports.

59. Field monitoring visits will be carried out, where possible, with main government counterparts, civil society, media, United Nations agencies, potential local donors and National Committees for UNICEF.

60. UNICEF will support equity-focused monitoring at decentralized level using indicators from the Municipal Seal of Approval and Platform of Urban Centres initiatives to monitor progress towards the results of the country programme.

61. The programme will strengthen the evidence-based equity focus, which is critical to support the generation and management of knowledge on the four programme component areas, through:

(a) generation of knowledge and evidence in areas where data are scarce, particularly regarding excluded children and adolescents, who are currently unknown and invisible in national statistics;

(b) monitoring key indicators, using disaggregated data whenever possible, to show inequalities;

(c) qualitative analyses of data, using equity-focused analysis as a participatory and multi-stakeholder mechanism to understand challenges and plan strategic responses;

(d) support to the development, improvement and harmonization of Brazil's data and information systems, including advocacy for disaggregated information;

(e) work with partners and the wider United Nations system in Brazil to implement equity-focused evaluations and to develop national capacities in this area;

systematization of knowledge and evidence in user-friendly ways that help to communicate data to a wider public, including rights-holders.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Brazil-UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2017-2021

Enhanced policies for excluded children							
Related articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: 3, 6, 7, 12, 18, 23, 24, 28, 29, 31. **National priority:** Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 16, 17.							
Related UNPDF outcomes: 6. Promotion of a peaceful, fair and inclusive society, through social participation, transparency and democratic governance, respecting secularism of the state and guaranteeing human rights for all **Related UNPDF indicators:** not finalized							
UNICEF Strategic Plan outcomes: 1. Health; 2. HIV/AIDS; 4. Nutrition; 5. Education; 7. Social inclusion							
UNICEF outcomes	*Indicators, baselines, targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (in thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
1. By 2021, the most excluded boys and girls benefit from enhanced and inclusive public policies and services and actively participate in decision making processes. *Children most expected to benefit: Afro-descendant, Quilombolas, indigenous people, children with disabilities, with HIV/AIDS, in rural areas and in vulnerable urban	**1a. Percentage of children with registered births** Baseline 1: Brazil 92.10% (2014) Target 1: Brazil 98% (2021) Baseline 2: North Region 82.69% (2014) Target 2: North Region 92% (2021)	Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics	1.1. Increased evidence on the causes of exclusion of boys and girls 1.2. Boys, girls and families from excluded populations with increased participation in institutional fora, knowledge and skills to demand their rights 1.3. Specialized programmes for the most excluded boys and girls implemented at national and subnational levels	Ministries of Health; Education; Sport; National Union of Municipal Education Managers; National Indigenous Peoples' Foundation; adolescent networks; National ECD Network; Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC); CSOs; research institutions; private sector	1 800	15 000	16 800
	1b. Percentage of out-of-school children Baseline 1: 4-17 years 6.88% (2014) Target 1:4-17 years 3% (2021) Baseline 2: 4-5 years 19.32% (2014) Target 2: 4-5 years 8% (2021) Baseline 3: 11-14 years: 1.79% Target 3: 1%	National Institute for Educational Studies and Research; Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics					

territories, LGBT youth.	Baseline 4: 15-17 years 15.73% (2014) Target 4: 15-17 years 7% (2021)						
	1e. Percentage of under-five indigenous children with low height for age Baseline 1:Brazil - TBD Target 1: Brazil TBD Baseline 2: Indigenous children living in the 10 most vulnerable indigenous special health districts : TBD Target 2: TBD	Administrative health records					
Quality social policies for vulnerable children							
Related articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: 3, 6, 18, 23, 24, 28, 29, 31, 32,. **National priority:** Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 17.							
Related UNPDF outcomes: 1. Social development strengthened throughout the territory, with the end of poverty through access to quality goods and public services, especially in education, health, social protection, food security and nutrition and decent work, with equity and an emphasis on gender, race, ethnicity and generational equality **Related UNPDF indicators: not finalized**							
UNICEF Strategic Plan outcomes: 1. Health; 2. HIV/AIDS; 4. Nutrition; 5. Education; 7. Social inclusion							

UNICEF outcomes	*Indicators, baselines, targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
2. By 2021 boys and girls have increased access to quality and responsive health, education and social protection programmes, and actively participate in the design, implementat¹on and monitoring of these services	**2a. Percentage of live births from women aged 10-14 years** Baseline: Brazil 0.96% (2013) Target: Brazil 0.90% (2021)	Ministry of Health: Live Birth Information System	2.1. Families, communities and civil society have increased knowledge on health practices, and government agencies and health professionals provide culturally, and age and gender responsive health services 2.2. Girls and boys have increased permanence in the basic education system, based on intersectoral policies addressing diversity, including contextualized education 2.3. Government at national and subnational levels has improved capacity to implement intersectoral policies for social protection with emphasis on the most vulnerable children	Ministries of: Health; Education; Sport; National Union of Municipal Education Managers; National Indigenous Peoples' Foundation; adolescent networks; ABC; CSOs; research institutions; private sector	445	34 000	34 445
	2b. Percentage of HIV/AIDS cases in adolescents and youth aged 15-19 years in treatment Baseline 1: Brazil – TBD Target 1: Brazil –TBD	Ministry of Health					
	2c. Age-grade distortion rate <u>Baseline 1</u>: Primary (EARLY years of primary education) – National and subnational (2014) Brazil 14.1% North 23% Northeast 19.9% Center-West 11.2% Southeast 8.5% South 9.9% <u>Target 1:</u> Primary – National and subnational (2021) Brazil 12% North 19.5% Northeast 16.9% Center-West 9.5% Southeast 7.2% South 7% <u>Baseline 2:</u> Lower Secondary (FINAL years of primary education) – National and subnational (2014) Brazil 27.3% North 39.3% Northeast 36.9% Center-West 23.1%	National Institute for Educational Studies and Research					

	Southeast 18.7% South 24% Target 1: Lower Secondary– National and subnational (2021) Brazil 17% North 24.5% Northeast 23.4% Center-West 14% Southeast 11.2% South 13.7% Baseline 2: Secondary- National and subnational (2014) Brazil 28.2% North 44.1% Northeast 38% Center-West 27.7% Southeast 20.5% South 21.7% Target 2: Secondary- National and subnational (2021) Brazil 26% North 40% Northeast 35% Center-West 25% Southeast 18% South 19%					
	2d. Percentage of children (0 – 17) who are overweight Baseline: Brazil 33.3% (2009) Target: Brazil 28% (2021)	Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics: Family Budgets Survey				

Prevention of and response to extreme forms of violence							
Related articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: 2, 4, 19, 20, 23, 34, 35, 37, 39 **National priority:** Sustainable Development Goals 5, 10, 16, 17							
Related UNPDF outcomes: 6. Promotion of a peaceful, fair and inclusive society, through social participation, transparency and democratic governance, respecting secularism of the state and guaranteeing human rights for all **Related UNPDF indicators: not finalized**							
UNICEF Strategic Plan outcomes: 5. Education; 6. Child protection							
UNICEF outcomes	*Indicators, baselines, targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
3. By 2021, Brazil's child protection system strengthened in its capacity to prevent and respond to violence against children.	**3a. Number of adolescent homicides (15-19 years)** Baseline 1: Brazil 9,952 (2014) Target 1: Brazil 8,300 (2021) Baseline 2: Male 9,374 (2014) Target 2: Male 7,800 (2021) Baseline 3: Afro-descendants and indigenous 7,469 (2014) Target 3: Afro-descendants and indigenous 6,500 (2021)	Ministry of Health	3.1. Families, communities, civil society, private sector and governmental agents in prioritized states with increased knowledge on the impact of violence on the lives of children 3.2. Gaps in the legal, political and institutional framework related to prevention, assistance and response to violence against children mapped and addressed 3.3. Improved cross-sectorial coordination and public services, at national and subnational levels, to benefit child witnesses, victims and perpetrators	Ministries of: Health; Justice; ABC; Congress; National Justice Council; youth networks; National Indigenous Peoples' Foundation; private sector	1 800	13 000	14 800
	3b. Number of children in detention Baseline: Brazil 15,221 (2013) Target: Brazil 11,626 (2021)	Administrative records: socio-educational system					

Engaged citizenry and participation							
Related article of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: 12 **National priority: Sustainable Development Goals** 16, 17							
Related UNPDF outcomes: 6. Promotion of a peaceful, fair and inclusive society, through social participation, transparency and democratic governance, respecting secularism of the state and guaranteeing human rights for all **Related UNPDF indicators: not finalized**							
UNICEF Strategic Plan outcomes: 7. Social Inclusion; organizational effectiveness							
					Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)		
UNICEF outcomes	*Indicators, baselines, targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*RR*	*OR*	*Total*
4. By 2021, engaged citizens, including boys, girls and families, millennials, individual donors and private sector partners, are driving public action for the realization of children's rights	**4a. Percentage of individuals who declare children's rights as one of the top five issues they would like to be involved in** Baseline: TBD Target: TBD	UNICEF Brazil/ communications: Survey on civic engagement	4.1. Citizen engagement is increased to support the realization of boys' and girls' rights 4.2. Increased non-financial contributions from individual donors, private and public sector partners for the realization of boys' and girls' rights 4.3. Adolescents mobilized and with increased knowledge and opportunities to participate in public forums of decision-making processes	Private sector ; media networks; civil society; youth and adolescent networks	450	14 000	14 450
	4b. Number of relationships with businesses whose scope has been expanded to adopt a policy that include a programmatic solution or innovation that respect or support children's rights Baseline: TBD Target: TBD	UNICEF Brazil/ Private Sector Fundraising and Partnerships Section: Survey on solutions supporting children's rights					
	4c. Percentage of adolescents aged 16-17 years who have voter registration cards Baseline 1: 42.5% Brazil (2012 – Municipal Elections) Target 1: 45% (2021)	Federal Electoral Court; Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics					

	Baseline 2: 23.9% Brazil (2014 – Federal Elections) Target 2: 40% (2021)						

Programme effectiveness

Related articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: 3, 6, 7, 12, 18, 23, 24, 28, 29, 31.
National priority: Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 17.

Related UNPDF outcomes:
7. Strategic partnerships established to strengthen and promote international cooperation and contribute to the reduction of inequalities within and between countries

Related UNPDF indicators: not finalized

UNICEF Strategic Plan outcomes: 1. Health; 2. HIV/AIDS; 4. Nutrition; 5. Education; 7. Social inclusion

UNICEF outcomes	*Indicators, baselines, targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
5. Country programme is efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children	**5a. Rate of implementation of programming resources** Baseline: TBD Target: TBD	Contributions management records; annual workplans; financial reports	5.1. UNICEF utilizes guidance, tools and resources to effectively design and manage programmes 5.2. UNICEF utilizes guidance, tools and resources for effective communication, advocacy and partnerships on child rights 5.3. UNICEF utilizes guidance, tools and resources to effectively influence the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and dissemination of development policies and programmes that promote, guarantee and impact	ABC, UNICEF headquarters and Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean	0	14 000	14 000
	5b. Number of South- South technical cooperation agreements linked to child rights between Brazil and other countries. Baseline: 1 (2016) Target: 5 (2021)	Administrative records/ South-South cooperation post-mission survey					

			children's rights 5.4. Increased number of countries engaged with Brazil and UNICEF in South-South cooperation initiatives to improve the situation of children in their country and in Brazil.					
Total						**4 495**	**90 000**	**94 495**

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United Nations Children's Fund
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Item 5 (a) of the provisional agenda*

Country programme document

Eastern Caribbean multi-country programme

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for the UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $17,500,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $6,600,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2017 to 2021.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2016.

* E/ICEF/2016/13.

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Programme rationale

1. The Eastern Caribbean Area (ECA) is composed of eight independent states and four overseas territories[1] that are classified as high- or upper-middle-income, with the gross national income (GNI) per capita ranging from $6,560 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to $15,550 in Trinidad and Tobago. However, ECA economies mostly stagnated following the 2008-2009 financial crisis, with low economic growth compared with growth rates above 10 per cent a decade ago.[2] The Human Development Index is categorized as "high", with Barbados and Antigua and Barbuda ranked the highest, at 57 and 58, respectively, with Dominica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on the lower end, at 94 and 97, respectively. Inequality is a concern, with Gini coefficients ranging from 0.37 for Grenada to 0.48 for Antigua and Barbuda. The proportion of children is about a third of the total population, from 34 per cent in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to 27 per cent in Barbados.

2. As small island developing States, ECA countries are highly vulnerable to external shocks and the effects of climate change, including intense hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding and landslides. Furthermore, countries are caught in a middle-income trap, with disparities in access to social services as well as severe deprivations and vulnerabilities that disproportionately affect children. With income poverty rates ranging from nearly 6 per cent in Anguilla to above 30 per cent in Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the ECA remains a region of inequities and vulnerabilities. Female-headed households are disproportionately represented among the poor. In Barbados, 62.2 per cent of poor households are female-headed. In Grenada, about 47 per cent of households are female-headed and 56 per cent of those households were unemployed compared with 25 per cent for the male-headed households. Children between the ages of 0 and 14 years are disproportionally represented among the poor, accounting for about 40 per cent of the total poor population in Saint Kitts and Nevis and Grenada. Social assistance targeting the poor ranges from 1.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in Saint Kitts and Nevis, 3.2 per cent in Grenada and 5.3 per cent in Antigua and Barbuda.

3. The impact of the 2008 global economic downturn led to virtually all countries in the region reducing national budgets and social spending; some face high levels of debt, with Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Grenada having debt ratios in excess of 90 per cent, while four members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) have ratios exceeding 75 per cent.[3] Widening income gaps and high unemployment, ranging between 11 and 27 per cent, with unemployment among youth aged 15 to 24 years ranging from 26 to 38 per cent, pose challenges for equitable sustainable development in the subregion and contribute to crime and violence among youth.

4. While the subregion has progressed well in universal primary and secondary education, with good gross and net enrolment rates and high investments, at an average of 5 per cent of GDP, gaps remain in access to and the quality of education. In early childhood development (ECD), 10 to 20 per cent of children aged 3 to 5 years do not attend preschool. Differences are prominent between the richest and the poorest

[1] Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago and four British Overseas Territories, namely, Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

[2] United Nations Statistics Division, country profiles: data.un.org/countryprofile.aspx.

[3] Inter-American Development Bank, *Caribbean Region Quarterly Bulletin*, vol. 5, No. 1, March 2016.

households. In Trinidad and Tobago, for example, 87.3 per cent of children living in the richest households were estimated to be receiving ECD services, compared with 64.8 per cent of children from the poorest households.[4] Geographical disparities are evident, with the provision of ECD services highest in the eastern region (79.6 per cent) and lowest in Tobago (63.2 per cent).[5] Gaps remain despite good progress; bottlenecks include a low level of government investment, the limited regulation of ECD services, a lack of standardization and quality assurance for private ECD services and limited data on children below the age of 5 years. The development of ECD policies, standards and regulatory frameworks to support comprehensive and holistic early childhood services is slow, with a weak systematic implementation of monitoring frameworks.

5. While universal primary and secondary education has been largely attained, educational outcomes are low and not commensurate with the high investments in education, which average 5 per cent of GDP. The average pass rates in such core subjects as mathematics and English, are less than 50 per cent. An analysis[6] in Saint Kitts and Nevis highlighted the challenges facing many Caribbean countries, namely, few teachers that effectively differentiate pedagogies; inadequate support systems for students at risk academically and behaviourally, particularly boys; a limited understanding of positive behaviour interventions; and a limited ability to identify and support students with disabilities. Research shows that violence in and out of school is pervasive, and coupled with weak public policies and regulatory frameworks, it limits the positive schooling experience of children. Systemic inefficiencies are evident in the number of over-age students, the rate of grade repetition and the dropout rate, which all affect more boys than girls, with the latter having higher academic performance. According to OECS, there were 2.8 per cent repeaters at the primary level and 5.9 per cent at the secondary level.

6. Limited planning capacity and weak data management frameworks and systems, coupled with the lack of a systematic approach to education reform, pose major challenges to education planning, quality and relevance as well as the retention of children in school. Inattention to ECD has a negative impact on children's performance in primary school. These deficits translate into weak student performance in secondary school, resulting in the absence of the core competencies required for excelling in tertiary education.[7]

7. Physical, sexual and/or emotional violence against children continues to be a major problem at home and in school. Approximately two in five adult females report having experienced sexual violence as a child. An alarming 60 to 70 per cent of children report having experienced some form of physical violence or psychological abuse in the past month. Physical punishment as a way of disciplining children is a widespread practice, with around 50 per cent of parents or caretakers reporting having used such practices, with younger and male children more likely to experience physical punishment. In Barbados, for example, about 35 per cent of parents or caretakers believe that a child needs to be physically punished, indicating deeply rooted attitudes and negative behaviours regarding child discipline. Child neglect is also problematic. In Barbados, approximately 69 per cent of reported cases involve children below the age of 9 years, and 29 per cent involve children under the age of 3 years. Important risk factors contributing to violence and neglect include poverty, unemployment and parental conflict, including the absence of support from fathers.

[4] 2011-12 Trinidad and Tobago multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS).
[5] 2006 Trinidad and Tobago MICS.
[6] Saint Kitts and Nevis Ministry of Education, Situation analysis of the education sector, 2013.
[7] 2015 United Nations Caribbean Multi-Country Assessment.

8. Juvenile offence is increasingly of concern. In Barbados, for example, between 2011 and 2013, 386 children aged 12 to 18 years were arrested, with 82.8 per cent being boys. The most common offence among males is assault (17.1 per cent), while among females, wandering (25 per cent) was the most common. Of those resulting in custodial sentences, wandering was the most common offence among females (53.3 per cent) and theft among males (18.3 per cent).[8]

9. While countries are gradually reviewing national legislative frameworks and aligning with international human rights standards, including recommendations by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, significant gaps in legislation persist. These include the enactment and implementation of subregional model legislation on the abolition of unequal treatment between children born in wedlock and those born outside of wedlock and the corporal punishment of children and addressing limited definitions of child abuse and child discipline where issues such as corporal punishment are excluded. Standards for child protection services, professional training and referral systems as well as accountability mechanisms remain weak, with improvements needed in provision of comprehensive responses for victims of violence and community-based diversion programmes for child offenders or those at risk of offending. Media and opinion leaders, as vibrant social mobilizers of caregivers and key stakeholders, also need to increase their support to the promotion of social behaviours that lead to the prevention of violence and the implementation of child-centered responses to violence.

10. The prevalence of non-communicable diseases, primarily among adults, is a health challenge in the subregion. Such diseases are associated with high levels of obesity starting in childhood. In addition to persistent nutritional deficiencies, the number of overweight and obese children is increasing. . For example, in Barbados, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, 6 to 12 per cent of children under 5 years of age are overweight.[9]

11. In 2015, comprehensive equity-based situation analyses were conducted for nine countries in the Eastern Caribbean region. The most vulnerable and poorest were identified by stakeholders as: (a) children of migrants and "left-behind" children; (b) out-of-school children, mainly boys, and children who fall out of the education, health and protection systems; (c) pregnant teens and young mothers; and (d) children from single-parent households.

12. Key lessons learned from the current multi-country programme that contributed to the design of the new programme include:

(a) The existence of transborder issues calls for regional solutions to local problems through increased triangular cooperation and coordination, as well as strengthened subregional bodies;

(b) Despite a progressive increase in the coverage of basic social services, including education, social protection and child protection, access has been uneven and quality gaps remain. This suggests that equitable access to and the quality and effectiveness of services should be areas of focus;

(c) The limited availability of quality, timely and disaggregated data is a challenge, affecting effective planning, monitoring and budgeting for children as well as advocacy and resource leveraging efforts;

[8] Government of Barbados/UNICEF, Situation Analysis of Justice for Children in Barbados, 2015.
[9] MICS 2012.

(d) Lengthy national processes, delays in the enactment of policy and legislative reforms and limited resources have slowed the implementation of the critical institutional changes necessary to realign new policies with international standards and practices;

(e) Addressing the persisting social norms, behaviours, attitudes and practices that are entrenched in society and institutions requires stronger participation and the empowerment of stakeholders, including children and adolescents, as well as the development of spaces for dialogue and national debate;

(f) Given the limited financial and human resource, interlinked, strategic and ongoing interventions that focus on a few critical issues affecting the most vulnerable children are needed for the multi-country programme to achieve long-term, sustainable results.

Programme priorities and partnerships

13. This multi-country programme for 2017-2021 will contribute to the following three outcomes of the Caribbean United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework[10] (a) an inclusive, equitable and prosperous Caribbean; (b) a safe, cohesive and just Caribbean; and (c) a sustainable and resilient Caribbean. The programme is defined in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and national and regional frameworks. The overall goal of the multi-country programme is to contribute to an inclusive, equitable and prosperous Eastern Caribbean that ensures the provision of quality services and support for children in the areas of education, child protection, social protection and resilience. The programme will focus on supporting the institutional capacity of the Governments for the implementation of policies and legislation to ensure realization of children's rights.

14. The programme will employ a mix of strategies, including:

(a) Capacity development for policy formulation and implementation, the delivery of quality services and the creation of demand for services, particularly for the most excluded and disadvantaged;

(b) Evidence generation and policy dialogue and advocacy to inform policies, programmes and accountability;

(c) Innovation, South-South and triangular cooperation and partnerships to enhance equity focus and address disparities for vulnerable children;

(d) Communication to develop social and behavioural-change models and to complement and enhance social accountability for children's rights, empowering communities to demand services and promote positive behaviours.

15. The multi-country programme has four interlinked components: (a) lifelong learning; (b) safety and justice for children; (c) social protection and child rights monitoring; and (d) programme effectiveness. A strong equity focus on the most disadvantaged boys and girls is at the heart of the programme. In addition, on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the strengthening of data systems and the monitoring of child rights will be prioritized. Disaster risk reduction, including addressing

[10] The Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework replaces the six current United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, one each for the United Nations country teams in Barbados and the OECS, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

the impacts of climate change on children, will be mainstreamed into the programme components. Furthermore, the programme will promote gender equality and the empowerment of girls and women, in line with the Gender Action Plan 2014-2017.

Lifelong learning

16. This programme component will contribute to the following outcome: by 2021, all boys, girls and adolescents, especially the most disadvantaged among them, have improved their education and developmental outcomes and have access to equitable and inclusive learning environments across the lifecycle, including in emergencies. This will be achieved by means of equitable and inclusive early childhood services, especially for the most vulnerable girls and boys; the promotion of positive learning and inclusive environments for all children and adolescents; and the strengthening of the institutional capacity for planning, monitoring and disaster risk reduction, including the impact of climate change on children.

17. Regarding ECD, the programme will support government capacities to give all children the best start, especially by prioritizing programming for the most vulnerable children aged 0 to 5 years. Strategies will include equipping children and caregivers with the knowledge and skills to handle stress, thereby building resilience for effective child protection. Working with partners[11] UNICEF will focus on: (a) support to ECD policy development and standards; (b) advocacy for the use of neuroscience evidence and behaviour-change strategies to create safe, nurturing and interactive learning environments; (c) the enhancement of the management of data, research and analysis to support the scaling up of systematic ECD approaches and the effective monitoring of the developmental progress of boys and girls; (d) advocacy for increased investment in ECD as a critical foundation for children as well as for addressing equity issues; and (e) the strengthening of institutions to promote early childhood care, gender socialization and healthy lifestyles.

18. To enhance the capacity of national and subnational institutions in education policy and planning, the collection and use of data and system monitoring and budgeting, the programme will focus on strengthening the organizational capacity to deliver equitable, inclusive and relevant education services with an emphasis on: (a) an enabling policy environment; (b) protective learning environments based on child-friendly school principles; (c) increased parental involvement in and connectedness to schools; and (d) healthy lifestyles and improved learning outcomes. These efforts will entail the use of behaviour-change communication strategies and will focus on the effective participation of adolescents, especially boys.

19. The programme will contribute towards strengthening the organizational capacity of key stakeholders to design and deliver equitable, inclusive and relevant education services. Attention will be paid to transitioning strategies throughout the education cycle and protective learning environments, including in emergencies. Working with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, it will prioritize effective disaster risk reduction in the education system including the sensitization of stakeholders, the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in sector policies, plans and curriculum and increasing the engagement of youth and adolescents in addressing the impact of climate change.

[11] The Ministry of Education, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Development Bank and institutions of higher learning.

Safety and justice for children

20. This programme component will contribute to the following outcome: by 2021, national legislation has been implemented to prevent, mitigate and address violence and other childhood abuses and the justice, education, public health, security and other sectors observe children's rights to this protection. This will be accomplished by means of: (a) capacity development for national justice and systems that enable the prevention and treatment of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect; (b) the fostering of the political commitment to legislate and budget for the strengthening of interventions that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation; and (c) the capacity of rights holders and duty bearers to foster positive practices and norms to protect children from violence and abuse.

21. The rates of interpersonal violence experienced by and engaged in by children in the subregion are significant. Among the priorities for implementation in the Eastern Caribbean are the reduction of risk factors for violence and the systematic removal of key barriers and bottlenecks to programming, namely social norms and behaviours that condone violent, abusive and discriminatory practices; poor legal protection and the weak implementation of laws; inadequate, poorly delivered and uncoordinated services; and a lack of data and evidence and inadequate financial and human resources.

22. Within the framework of the global End Violence against Children campaign, the prevention of violence against children will be addressed across the lifecycle in a multisectoral manner across all programme components. A key prevention strategy will be advocacy and support for legislative reform for the effective and efficient prevention of and response to violence towards and the abuse, exploitation and neglect of children. The enactment, implementation and awareness of a regional model for child protection and family legislation will be prioritized. To strengthen sectoral evidence-based programming, planning, and communication messages, UNICEF will support the collection and analysis of national child protection data and undertake studies on the factors influencing child protection.

23. For the prevention of recurrence and to minimize the adverse effects of violence, support will be provided to the institutional strengthening of national child protection services linked to such other sectors as education, health and justice. These linkages will enhance the response to childhood abuse and prevent recurrence, including in emergency contexts. The programme will support child protection agencies to become the nucleus for guiding national referral mechanisms and the case management of violence against children; building a national capacity to identify, report and refer abuse allegations; ensuring the adequate provision of care for all vulnerable groups; and reducing the number of children who cross over from being victims to becoming perpetrators of violence.

24. While improved protective environments for children should reduce the levels of youth offences, the programme will promote and facilitate South-South cooperation, sharing models and good practices for the rehabilitation of young offenders, while sustaining dialogue and advocacy with the Governments and civil society in the subregion to adjust attitudes, laws and programmes that still favour punitive approaches to adolescent antisocial behaviour.

25. Evidence generation on strategies for addressing social norms that constitute bottlenecks for the realization of children's rights will entail capacity development for Governments, civil society and opinion leaders to create demand for practices and policies for the improved protection of children and for social and behavioural change. Children will be empowered as key actors with the knowledge and skills to better protect

themselves and their peers from violence. These social and behavioural change models will support government action to create positive norms around the disciplining of children in schools and homes.

26. Partnership strengthening will converge around: (a) convening and networking at the subregional and national levels; (b) collaboration with relevant national, regional and international organizations to ensure shared approaches, the maximization of scarce resources and appropriate technical assistance; and (c) partnerships with the private sector, civil society and community-based organizations to increase social demand for the improved protection of children.

Social inclusion and child rights monitoring

27. This programme component will contribute to the following outcome: by 2021, national systems and policies are effectively addressing the multiple deprivations affecting the most vulnerable boys and girls across the lifecycle, and building this group's resilience, through adequately funded social investments and rights-based quality social policies based on disaggregated data.

28. Through the facilitation of South-South exchanges and the provision of technical support, the programme will support efforts to strengthen the capacity of national Governments to develop and deliver inclusive and equitable child-focused social protection systems. These efforts will be supported by national development planning to reduce social vulnerabilities, strengthen the resilience against food, fuel, financial and environmental crises and other shocks and protect children from all forms of poverty and social exclusion.

29. Resource and capacity constraints that impede the development of national statistics in the ECA are significant and require increased commitment and more partnerships to ensure coordinated assistance for statistical development. UNICEF will leverage partnerships, taking into consideration the distinctive context of small island developing States, to effectively respond to national needs for the generation of data on child-rights monitoring. The programme will provide partners with methodologies, tools and best practices, to support monitoring the child-focused Sustainable Development Goals on the basis of timely, quality and disaggregated data. UNICEF will also support capacity development in multidimensional poverty measurement aimed at influencing equity-focused policies and programmes and the allocation of resources to address high inequality and disparities.

30. Linked with other programme components, the programme will support the capacity development of the Governments in public finance for children to ensure adequate and cost-efficient resource allocation for quality social services in social protection, ECD, education and child protection, particularly for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children. UNICEF will provide technical assistance to increase the capacity of the Governments and academic institutions to assess and monitor national social investment in children and women to shape evidence-based policies and strengthen programme and policy development in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

31. UNICEF will also promote stronger multi-stakeholder partnerships among Government, regional organizations, academic and research institutions, civil society, the private sector and youth organizations that will contribute towards systematic evidence generation and information collection related to multidimensional poverty measurement,

child-rights monitoring, public finance for children and national and subregional social protection programme implementation and reform.

Programme effectiveness

32. The programme effectiveness component supports focused interlinked programme delivery and managing for results.

33. Evidence generation and planning, monitoring and evaluation will support the multi-country programme in monitoring results and targeting the most excluded and disadvantaged children. Monitoring and evaluation results will be linked to all programme components.

34. National capacities for generating timely, quality, disaggregated and gender-sensitive data will be strengthened to provide evidence for research, policy decisions and the monitoring of child rights. UNICEF will harness its global expertise and leverage cooperation on measuring the child-focused Sustainable Development Goals. Periodic situation analysis of children, cross-sectoral studies and strategic evaluations will support the effective planning and management of the programme components.

35. In the areas of communication, advocacy, resource mobilization and partnerships, UNICEF will build on the coalition of partners to increase momentum on children's rights in the subregion. The programme will build on the position of UNICEF as a credible and trusted voice for children by reaching decision makers and the general public with evidence-informed messages; engaging policy makers, civil groups and opinion makers to take action; and demanding specific change for the most excluded and disadvantaged children.

36. The communication strategy will revolve around deepening partnerships with traditional mass media to reach general audiences, while increasingly interacting on social media platforms to reach particular segments of the population, such as the middle class and millennials. A key strategy will be to empower adolescents to amplify their voices on key national issues through platforms that take advantage of the high mobile phone and Internet penetration rates in the subregion.

37. New strategic alliances will be formed with the private and philanthropic sectors for development and innovation in specific programme areas. Cooperation with other English-speaking Caribbean offices to generate and share knowledge and resources, mobilize resources and leverage support towards the common goals will be prioritized.

38. In order to address the increasing vulnerability of the subregion to weather-related events and climate change, disaster risk reduction will be integrated into all programme components and linked with national disaster management offices as well as United Nations and regional bodies. UNICEF will seek to reduce country and community risks and prepare for and respond to emergencies in a coordinated manner. The aim is to mitigate the impact on children and women and ensure a rapid return to normalcy.

Summary budget table

Programme component	*(In thousands of United States dollars)*		
	Regular resources	*Other resources*	*Total*
Lifelong learning	5 000	3 000	8 000
Safety and justice for children	4 500	2 000	6 500
Social inclusion and child rights monitoring	4 500	600	5 100
Programme effectiveness	3 500	1 000	4 500
Total	**17 500**	**6 600**	**24 100**

Programme and risk management

39. The multi-country programme document outlines the UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

40. The multi-country programme will be coordinated as part of the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework and the work of two United Nations country teams (Barbados/Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and Trinidad and Tobago). The multi-country programme will be implemented in cooperation with the Governments of eight independent states and four territories, under the leadership of the Ministries of Planning and in collaboration with subregional bodies, universities and civil society organisations.

41. UNICEF will monitor results through subregional implementation plans, annual work plans and annual and peer reviews with implementing partners to assess the key strategic, programmatic, operational and financial risks, and define appropriate risk control and mitigation measures.

42. The Eastern Caribbean Area Office will use such corporate processes and tools as the harmonized approach to cash transfers to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme implementation. Particular attention will be focused on three key programme risks: the limited capacity of UNICEF to mobilize and leverage resources on the basis of the subregion's middle- and high-income status; the limited capacity for results-based management and reporting; and the disaster-prone nature of the subregion. Such risks will be mitigated by expanding the programme partnerships while also maintaining efforts in the capacity development of Government in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of social policies and programmes as well as in disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness and response.

Monitoring and evaluation

43. Progress towards the planned results of the multi-country programme will be monitored by using the regionally and globally comparable indicators contained in the

United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework and the results matrix of the multi-country programme. In collaboration with the UNICEF country offices in Belize, Jamaica and Guyana and Suriname, ECA office will monitor the three common programmatic results and joint indicators that will allow aggregated reporting on the results. In addition, UNICEF will contribute towards the monitoring of the Framework.

44. UNICEF will support monitoring of the situation of children in the ECA and compliance with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Given the limited availability of disaggregated social statistics in the subregion, the capacities of the statistical offices and relevant line ministries will be strengthened to ensure that the necessary data is available for monitoring national and international goals and tracking inequities. Progress in addressing gendered bottlenecks that inhibit gender equality and the realization of capabilities, resources and opportunities for children will be monitored through the indicators consolidated in the UNICEF Gender Action Plan. In coordination with the eight countries and four territories and the subregional bodies, UNICEF will conduct reviews of the multi-country programme to determine programme effectiveness and impact. Evaluations of public policies and programmes will be supported to draw lessons and provide inputs for future programmes and policies for children.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Eastern Caribbean – UNICEF multi-country programme of cooperation, 2017-2021

Convention on the Rights of the Child: articles 3, 19, 20, 27, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39 and 40. **National priorities:** Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 4; 5, 10, 13 and 16
United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework outcomes involving UNICEF: ***A cohesive, safe and just Caribbean*** Outcome 1: Capacities of public policy and rule of law institutions and civil society organizations strengthened. Outcome 2: Equitable access to justice, protection, citizen security and safety reinforced. ***An inclusive, equitable and prosperous Caribbean*** Outcome 1: Access to quality education and lifelong learning increased for enhanced employability and sustainable economic development. Outcome 2: Access to equitable social protection systems, quality services and sustainable economic opportunities improved. ***A sustainable and resilient Caribbean*** Outcome 1: Policies and programmes for climate-change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and universal access to clean and sustainable energy in place. **Outcome indicators measuring change that include UNICEF contribution:** Number of countries that implement gender and child responsive budgeting tools Number of countries able to ascertain attrition rates in sexual offences and domestic violence cases by procedural stage (police and courts) Number of countries with functioning mechanisms for systematically collecting, analysing and using disaggregated data and other forms of information that use regionally established tools for monitoring and reporting on the situation of women and children Number of countries with gender- and child-responsive social protection and education policies and strategies Number of countries in which the number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population has decreased Number of countries with a decrease in the number of women and men reporting experiences of physical and sexual violence Percentage of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex Percentage of children, both boys and girls, living below the national poverty line or in multidimensional poverty Percentage of the eligible population covered by social protection floors or systems, disaggregated by sex, and distinguishing children, the unemployed, the elderly, people with disabilities, pregnant women/newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and vulnerable
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome(s): Outcome 5: Improved learning outcomes and equitable and inclusive education. Outcome 6: Improved and equitable prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children. Outcome 7: Improved policy environment and systems for disadvantaged and excluded children, guided by improved knowledge and data.

UNICEF outcomes	Key progress indicators, baselines and targets	Means of verification	Indicative country programme outputs	Major partners, partnership frameworks	Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (thousands of United States dollars)		
					RR	OR	Total
1. By 2021, all boys, girls and adolescents, especially the most disadvantaged among them, have improved their education and developmental outcomes and access equitable and inclusive learning environments across the life cycle, including in emergencies.	Percentage of children (36-59 months) who are on track in at least three of four developmental domains, total and disaggregated (as relevant) by gender, poorest quintile and urban/rural Baseline: 96.6/94.8/98.6% (T/M/F[a] BB), 91.4/91.2/91.7% (T/M/F SL), 91.3/89.1/93.3% (T/M/F TT) Target: 98%	MICS Child assessment reports	1.1 Strengthened national frameworks, policies, plans and standards to increase access to high-quality, equitable, inclusive, and holistic early ECD, learning and care environments for girls and boys (0-8 years) and their families by 2021, including in emergencies 1.2 Enhanced capacity of national and subnational entities in education planning, the collection and use of data, system monitoring and budgeting to provide equitable, inclusive and relevant education for all children and adolescents by 2021 1.3 Strengthened organizational capacity of key stakeholders to design and deliver equitable, inclusive and relevant education services, transitioning strategies and protective learning environments, including in emergencies, for all children and adolescents within rights-based educational frameworks and principles by 2021	Ministries of Education, Health and Social Development Statistical departments OECS Caribbean Community	5 000	3 000	8 000
	Gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education, by gender Baseline: 106/109/103% (T/M/F GRN), 74.3/71.6/78% (T/M/F SL), 64.5/64.6/64.4% (T/M/F SVG), 67/70.4/63.6% (T/M/F BVI) Target: 80%	Education Statistical Digest ECD Snapshots					
	Lower secondary education completion rate, by gender Baseline: 108.2/105.5/110.8% (T/M/F BB), 77.0/73.2/81.6% (T/M/F SL), 92.2/87.0/98.5% (T/M/F TT) Target: 90-100% for both boys and girls	MICS					
	Percentage of students who are average for grade in	Education Statistical Digest					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	primary education, by gender Baseline: 30.1/35.4/24.8% (T/M/F AB), 21.8/29.6/13.9% (T/M/F DOM), 32.1/34.2/29.9% (T/M/F GRN), 8.5/9/8% (T/M/F MON), 7/8.8/5.1% (T/M/F SKN), 13.2/17.3/9.1% (T/M/F SL), 10.8/14.4/7.2% (T/M/F SVG), 20.8/26.5/15.1% (T/M/F BVI) Target: Reduce by 20%						
	Percentage of students experiencing bullying, corporal punishment, harassment, violence, sexual discrimination or abuse Baseline (bullying): 27.8/25.4/30.3% (T/M/F ANG), 24.9/23.5/26.7% (T/M/F AB), 13.3/15.4/11% (T/M/F BB), 17.2/18.3/16.5% (T/M/F BVI), 27.4/28.7/26% (T/M/F DOM), 27.2/28.6/26.1% (T/M/F GRN), 28.1/31.8/24.8% (T/M/F MON), 22.7/24.9/20.4% (T/M/F SKN), 25.1/25.2/25.1% (T/M/F SL), 29.9/30.7/29.4% (T/M/F SVG), 15.4/17.9/13% (T/M/F TT) Target: Reduce by 40%	Global School-based Student Health Survey School surveys					

2. By 2021, national legislation is implemented to prevent, mitigate and address violence and other childhood abuses and the justice, education, public health, security and other sectors observe children's rights to this protection.	Children in detention per 100,000 child population Baseline: 7 (ANG), 9 (AB), 75 (BB), 4 (BVI), 3 (DOM), 19 (GRN), 1 (MON), 21 (SKN), 6 (SL), N/a (SVG), 148 (TT), 4 (TCI) Target: 20% reduction	Administrative data reports (national detention centres)	2.1 Increased country capacity to promote and ensure justice and systems that enable the prevention and treatment of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect 2.2 Strengthened political commitment to legislate and budget for strengthening interventions that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect 2.3 Increased capacity of rights holders and duty bearers to foster positive practices and norms to protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect	Ministry of Social Development Offices of attorneys general OECS Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Statistical departments Regional faith-based organizations West Indies Cricket Board	4 500	2 000	6 500
	Children (2-14 years) (1-14) who experience violent disciplinary practices by an adult member of the household Baseline: 75.1% (BB), 67.5% (SL), 76.7% (TT) Target: 10% reduction	MICS, other household surveys					
	Children (0-17 years) living in residential care, with disaggregated target ages and a specific target for children 0-3 years Baseline: 2 (ANG), 23 (AB), 104 (BB), 4 (BVI), 25 (DOM), 50 (GRN), 0 (MON), 20 (SKN), 36 (SL), N/a (SVG), 646 (TT), 7 (TCI) Target: 30% reduction	Administrative data reports (child protection services)					
	Girls (15-17 years) who have ever experienced sexual violence Baseline: to be established Target: to be determined	MICS, violence against women surveys					
3. By 2021, national systems and policies are effectively addressing multiple deprivations affecting the most vulnerable boys and girls across the lifecycle, and building	Public expenditure for children (percentage of GDP) disaggregated by sector: social protection, health, education, child protection, and ECD Baseline: social protection:	Ministry of Finance expenditures estimate reports, budget speech, national development plan	3.1 Strengthened national and subnational human and institutional capacities to develop and deliver inclusive and equitable social protection systems to strengthen the resilience of boys and girls and protect them from all forms of	Ministries of Finance, Planning, Social Development, Health and Education	4 500	600	5 100

their resilience, through adequately funded social investments and rights-based quality social policies on the basis of adequately disaggregated data on children.	0.2%; health: to be determined; child protection: 0.3%; education: 4.7% (SL) Target: Increase or maintain levels of social sector allocations for children		poverty and social exclusion 3.2 Improved national and subnational capacities to systematically collect, analyse and use desegregated data and other forms of information to monitor, inform policy decisions and report on the situation of children and child poverty in all its dimensions, using an equity-based approach 3.3 Enhanced national systems that govern the volume, efficiency and impact of invested resources towards building the resilience of the most vulnerable boys, girls and adolescents	Central statistics offices OECS World Bank Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre International Monetary Fund			
	Number of children covered by social protection systems Baseline: to be established Target: to be determined	Social protection strategies and plans, social protection information system and reports					
	Proportion of children covered by social protection systems of the total children targeted by social protection systems Baseline: to be established Target: Increase or maintain the proportion of children covered by the social protection programme and system	Social protection strategies and plans, social protection information system and reports					
4. Programme effectiveness					3 500	1 000	4 500
Total resources					**17 500**	**6 600**	**24 100**

Abbreviations: ANG: Anguilla; AB: Antigua and Barbuda; BB: Barbados; BVI: British Virgin Islands; DOM: Dominica; GRN: Granada; MON: Montserrat; SI : Saint Lucia; SKN: Saint Kitts and Nevis; SVG: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and TT: Trinidad and Tobago

[a] Total/Male/Female

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Country programme document

Guyana and Suriname

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for Guyana and Suriname is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $8,885,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $9,200,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2017 to 2021.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2016.

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Programme rationale

1. Guyana and Suriname are neighbouring countries situated on the north coast of South America. Their populations are 747,884 and 541,000, respectively, of which 36 per cent are children.[1] Guyana is classified as a lower-middle-income country, while Suriname is considered an upper-middle-income country.

2. Despite the two countries' structural and political differences, they share some essential common elements that constrain them in their efforts to realize children's rights. They are considered small island developing States, although they are located on the mainland which reflects the disadvantages associated with being remote and prone to natural disasters. An estimated 80 per cent of the territory is covered by the Amazon rainforest, which creates distinctive differences between the sparsely populated interior and the coastal areas. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway have provided relevant holistic frameworks for action to reduce disparities between the two regions in both countries and to address the impact of climate change on children.

3. Both countries have made important progress towards the reduction of malnutrition, nearing the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, improving literacy and school attendance and, especially in Suriname, improving the overall public health system and reducing the prevalence of such diseases as malaria and measles. However, both countries still have important equity gaps deriving from similar combinations of factors that, alone or combined, exacerbate multiple deprivations and inequalities in childhood in specific population groups:

(a) *Geographical.* Ten per cent of the population of Guyana and 15 per cent of that of Suriname live in the Amazon interior, where a lack of access to services, infrastructures and transport makes children and families particularly vulnerable;

(b) *Ethnic minorities.* Indigenous peoples make up 7 per cent of the population in Guyana and 3 per cent in Suriname, while Maroon people make up 15 per cent of the Surinamese population. Guyana has the Ministry on Indigenous People's Affairs and the Amerindian Act, which is aimed at protecting indigenous peoples. While notable progress has been made in key areas regarding the advancement of indigenous and Maroon children's rights, much still needs to be done. Suriname has no law protecting the rights of indigenous and Maroon peoples, and in both countries they face challenges in accessing services;

(c) *Poverty.* Families living below the poverty line are not provided with adequate safety nets and services to ensure that their children have the same opportunities as wealthier children. Among the Caribbean countries, Guyana has the highest rate of multidimensional child poverty, 74 per cent, while in Suriname, the multidimensional poor account for 41 per cent of the child population;[2]

(d) *Disability.* Neither country has inclusive services or clear policies that provide children with disabilities the required means for living in a dignified manner. The scarce

[1] All demographic statistics are drawn from the Bureau of Statistics for Guyana and the General Bureau of Statistics of Suriname (ABS).

[2] Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, "Social Panorama of Latin America", 2013.

availability of data itself demonstrates the lack of attention given to this hidden and vulnerable group of children;

(e) *Gender.* Socially constructed gender roles add a layer of inequality in terms of access to services, and make girls and boys more vulnerable to specific types of violence and abuse. Guyana ranks 124 and Suriname 103 out of 188 countries in the Gender Inequality Index.[3]

4. In both Guyana and Suriname, many children under the age of 15 suffer from violent discipline by their caregivers (70 and 87 per cent, respectively).[4] Corporal punishment is widespread with 41 per cent of one-year-old children in Guyana experiencing it on a regular basis.[5] While Suriname forbids corporal punishment in school settings, Guyana is among the few countries in the world that do not forbid corporal punishment in any setting, except in juvenile detention centres. Peer violence and bullying disproportionately target children with disabilities. Children are also discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation. Both countries have a substantive prevalence of sexual violence and abuse against children, especially in the interior. While both Governments have been reacting to these phenomena, which have been increasing, more efforts are needed. Key bottlenecks to be addressed are the limited budget allocated to child protection services, violence-tolerant social norms and limited access to and availability of services.

5. Poverty and living in the Amazon interior are aggravating factors for early marriage and pregnancy among girls. In Guyana, 13 per cent of girls aged 15 to 19 years were married or cohabiting and the adolescent birth rate stands at 71 per 1,000 women.[6] In Suriname, 5 per cent of women marry or cohabit before the age of 15,[7] and 14 per cent of all pregnancies in 2013 were of girls aged 15 to 19 years.[8] Key bottlenecks are social norms that condone violence against children; the belief that girls are ready to procreate when they reach puberty; the limited availability and poor quality of services; and a lack of intersectoral coordination.

6. The suicide rate among adolescents is high. In Guyana, 23 per cent of children between the ages of 13 and 15 years (19 per cent of boys and 29 per cent of girls) had seriously considered suicide in 2010.[9] While there is a need for a better understanding of adolescent suicide and how gender plays a role in it, the linkage with unplanned and/or early pregnancy, intergenerational cultural expectations and gender norms are factors that have already been identified.

7. Although both countries have made efforts to reform their child protection legislation, critical work remains to be carried out on strengthening capacities at the legal, policy, institutional and service-delivery levels. Bottlenecks include budget allocation, the lack of cross-sectoral coordination and public attitudes. A lack of access to and the poor quality of social services hinder progress in the provision of alternative care. Access to the juvenile justice system is also limited. In 2015, Suriname initiated efforts to reduce child abuse in the interior. Both countries must continue to progress to a vision for justice for children that

[3] United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Gender Inequality Index, 2015.
[4] UNICEF and the Government of Guyana, multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS), 2014; UNICEF and the Government of Suriname, MICS, 2010.
[5] UNICEF and the Government of Guyana, MICS, 2014.
[6] Ibid.
[7] ABS, National Population and Housing Census, 2012.
[8] ABS, Statistics Yearbook, 2013.
[9] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Global School-based Student Health Survey, 2010.

focuses on prevention and provides children with access to alternative diversion and alternatives to detention measures and rehabilitation facilities.

8. In Guyana, 86 per cent of children aged 3 and 4 years are considered to be developmentally on track,[10] while in Suriname, the figure is 71 per cent, mostly due to low performance in literacy and numeracy. Early education programme attendance is 61 per cent in Guyana and 85 per cent in Suriname, but attendance is below 50 per cent for children living in in the interior of both countries.[11] Both countries have very limited capacity for the early detection of disabilities, which has long-lasting consequences for children and their families. Bottlenecks regarding early childhood development (ECD) and detection include inadequate budget allocation, indirect costs for access to services and the lack of capacity of service providers to identify and properly care for children with disabilities.

9. Disparities and exclusion in education worsen at the secondary level. The percentage of children attending primary school is 97 per cent in Guyana and 95 per cent in Suriname. However, in the Surinamese interior, it is only 90 per cent. With an 85 per cent secondary-school attendance rate, Guyana has made progress, while the rate in Suriname is only 59 per cent. In both countries, there are notable disparities between the coastal areas and the interior in terms of secondary-school attendance rates. Multiple bottlenecks account for this inequity as well as the poor quality of primary and secondary education: an outdated curriculum; a limited number of programmes for inclusive education; unqualified teachers, especially at the secondary level; and language barriers for indigenous and Maroon children, who must adapt to learning in the national languages.

10. Despite a decline of 17 per cent since 2000, the child mortality rate in Guyana (39 per 1,000 live births nationally and 64 per 1,000 in the Amazon region) is still one of the higher rates among countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. In Suriname, the under-five mortality rate decreased from 34 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 21 in 2015. In both countries, around 60 per cent of such deaths occur in the first month of life.[12] Chronic malnutrition remains a barrier to child development, with 12 per cent of children under the age of five suffering from stunting in Guyana and 9 per cent in Suriname, with higher levels in the Amazon region (20 and 17 per cent, respectively). The rate of exclusive breastfeeding during the first six months after birth is only 23 per cent in Guyana and 3 per cent in Suriname. In addition, obesity is an increasing concern in both countries, with 5 per cent of children under the age of five in Guyana and 4 per cent in Suriname overweight.

11. Both countries are vulnerable to natural disasters and the negative impacts of climate change. They are particularly at risk for drought and for floods during the rainy season, which affects infrastructure and access to clean water services. Floods threaten the low-lying coastal area where nearly 80 per cent of the population lives, and changing rainfall patterns threaten the interior. Additionally, the presence of extractive businesses in the Amazon area is accelerating environmental degradation and the risk of health hazards, disproportionately affecting children's access to safe water and sanitation facilities.

[10] All statistics on education and health are drawn from the Guyana MICS 2014 and Suriname MICS 2010, apart from those with the sources specified.
[11] ABS, Suriname Statistics Yearbook, 2013.
[12] United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, "Levels and trends in child mortality", 2015.

12. Key lessons learned during the current country programme highlight the need to keep fostering intersectoral cooperation among various ministries and authorities at the local level in order to effectively achieve results in the different programmatic areas. The programme has also shifted its capacity-building approach from supporting ad hoc trainings to systematically strengthening pre- and in-service capacity development programmes. In the period 2012-2016 period, more evidence was provided by UNICEF and partners on the situation of ECD services and their benefits to children. The implementation of model projects and the creation of additional evidence has contributed to an increase in inter-ministerial collaboration in planning the expansion of ECD services.

Programme priorities and partnerships

13. The overall goal of the country programme is to support the efforts of Guyana and Suriname to accelerate the universal realization of children's rights by fostering greater social inclusion, especially for the most disadvantaged and excluded children and families, by reducing disparities and inequities and strengthening inclusiveness. The programme is aimed at supporting both countries in developing and advancing their agendas to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It supports the priorities outlined in the National Development Plans and related Caribbean Community Child and Youth Frameworks, and the results are aligned with goals and targets identified at various levels of governance. The programme aligns with UNICEF subregional strategies, which provide an important framework for fostering South-South cooperation. In particular, the programme will contribute to the results highlighted by the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework 2017-2021

14. The programme has three components: (a) safety and justice; (b) lifelong learning; and (c) social inclusion and child rights monitoring. The programme will address key bottlenecks impeding the realization of child rights, focusing on the most excluded children, by strengthening national and subnational systems and capacities to design, monitor, implement and budget for child-related policies and legislation; strengthening systems and capacities for the equitable provision of quality and innovative services; and empowering rights holders for enhanced demand through advocacy for quality services and to change social behaviour.

15. The programme will be implemented in partnership with ministries and other bodies at all levels of the Government. Alliances with civil society, the private sector and media will be key in engaging the public. Efforts will be intensified to engage with parliamentarians, faith-based organizations, indigenous and Maroon leaders, the academic community, human rights institutions and youth organizations. Close collaboration will continue with other United Nations agencies, other countries in the Caribbean and countries covering the Amazon Basin.

16. Specific attention will be given to counterbalancing the consequences of climate change, preventing further risk and damage and developing nationwide approaches that will contribute to educating children and their families about how to prevent further negative consequences.

17. The programme will embrace opportunities to contribute to fulfilling the UNICEF mandate to promote gender equality and the empowerment of girls, in line with the Gender Action Plan, 2014-2017, particularly in the areas of gender mainstreaming in the education and child protection sectors.

Safety and justice for children

18. The alarming rate of violence and abuse against and neglect of children is not sufficiently addressed in either country and will be a primary focus of the country programme. This programme component is focused on strengthening child protection systems, which will contribute to the realization of children's right to be free from violence, neglect and abuse, including the right of children to live in a family environment and their right to protection as a key element of justice for children.

19. The programme will provide technical assistance to strengthen capacities and promote cross-sectoral collaboration in order to prevent and address violence, neglect and abuse and family separation. Particular attention will be given to strengthening local child protection systems in a manner that is respectful of the way of life of indigenous populations. In Guyana, the programme will support the implementation of a culturally appropriate model for a local child protection system. Once the model system has been assessed positively, the programme will advocate for replicating it in other parts of the country. In Suriname, the programme will contribute to the further strengthening of the Government's child protection initiatives in the interior. The programme will also have a particular focus on supporting the countries in their efforts towards the elimination of corporal punishment, both in law and practice.

20. The programme will also be aimed at collecting evidence and supporting the two countries to establish baselines and targets for reducing violence, neglect and abuse. It will have a strong link with the education system in its efforts to eliminate corporal punishment and reduce peer violence and discrimination.

21. UNICEF will support efforts to increase the access of children to the justice system, in particular, developing and implementing targeted prevention programmes for juveniles considered at risk of being in conflict with the law. These tailored programmes will benefit juveniles in detention and will be aimed at preventing recidivism and facilitating reintegration. In essence, the programmes will contribute to: (a) creating an enabling environment for alternatives to detention as well as for diversion measures to be successfully applied and (b) reducing the number of juveniles in detention.

22. The programme will contribute to reducing the high levels of teenage pregnancy. It will further expand health and family life education, with a focus on skills development and sexuality education. In Guyana, the programme will use evidence from a situation analysis on teenage pregnancy. In Suriname, the programme will use the experience and evidence from the Adolescent Development Programme. Children and young people will be involved as champions of change in crafting and delivering messages to their peers through social media and other means to contribute to preventive efforts. It will also engage other major stakeholders, such as youth associations and faith based organizations.

23. Evidence-based advocacy will aim at leveraging resources to implement alternative modalities to the institutionalization of children, such as foster care, and transform the existing institutions so that they can provide services to prevent family separation. A mapping exercise of the situation of the existing formal care system will help to identify how best to develop a strong alternative care system that will prevent family separation and promote national adoption systems. Particular attention will be given to children with disabilities and children from indigenous and Maroon groups.

24. The programme will promote multisectoral child protection referral mechanisms and violence prevention systems. Professional development will be supported to enhance the

capacity of social workers to manage child protection cases and that of other professionals to refer and address them. Other rights holders, including parents, will be provided with initiatives aimed at developing positive parenting skills throughout the country. To improve children's access to justice, technical assistance will be provided to increase the use of child-friendly and gender-sensitive proceedings by the police, courts and prosecutors' offices. UNICEF will support the alignment of juvenile justice procedures with international standards.

Lifelong learning

25. This programme component will focus on supporting the countries in developing systems to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals regarding education and ECD, particularly on (a) the provision of equitable and inclusive early childhood services, especially for the most vulnerable girls and boys; (b) the promotion of positive learning and inclusive environments for all children and adolescents; and (c) the strengthening of institutional capacity for planning, monitoring and disaster risk reduction.

26. UNICEF will contribute to strengthening the countries' capacity to enhance access to ECD services. Emphasis will be placed on complementing and scaling up existing local models through advocacy, technical support to Governments and other relevant partners and the leveraging of resources. UNICEF will adopt evidence-based programming by demonstrating the effectiveness of the models and advocating for scaling them up country-wide. The programme will also ensure a focus on the early detection of disabilities and provide families with the necessary services and support.

27. To support access to inclusive quality primary and secondary education, the programme will address data gaps and identify invisible and excluded children. It will promote access and intercultural education in conformity with cultural beliefs and traditions; bilingual education for children belonging to the indigenous and Maroon communities; the inclusion of children with disabilities; capacity strengthening for teachers and other professionals on inclusive and intercultural education, social cohesion and equity; and the reduction of dropouts. UNICEF will also work closely with the education sector to promote healthy lifestyles; and will foster a dialogue among key stakeholders on the quality of education, with a particular focus on the assessment of learning outcomes and equity gaps and strategies for improvement.

28. The education component will have a strong emphasis on integrating climate change into education by means of advocacy with policymakers and into existing curricula and education programmes, particularly in secondary education, and by means of the capacity development of teaching staff and the staff of organizations involved in the formulation and implementation of non-formal education programmes. This approach will strengthen the resilience and knowledge of children and adolescents regarding climate change and increase their ability on to help reduce climate change. It will also be aimed at developing the capacity of students to be agents for change, including having solid skills to obtain green jobs.

29. Partnerships with other actors involved in the sector and the strengthening of South-South cooperation (especially inter-Caribbean and inter-Amazonian) will play key roles in the exchange of practices and knowledge between countries with similar challenges and structures.

Social inclusion and child rights monitoring

30. This programme component, which complements and supports the other components, seeks to strengthen the capacity to monitor children's rights, reduce multidimensional poverty and provide inclusive and equitable access to social protection services, especially for the most disadvantaged children. It seeks to ensure that national systems and policies effectively address the multiple deprivations that affect the most vulnerable boys and girls across the lifecycle, building their resilience through social investments and rights-based social policies.

31. By means of South-South exchange, together with technical support, UNICEF and international partners will support the strengthening of national capacities to develop and deliver inclusive and equitable child-focused social protection systems. This will be augmented by national development planning to strengthen resilience against crises and shocks and protect children from poverty and social exclusion. The programme will identify policy gaps to achieve the reduction of inequalities affecting the most vulnerable families in both interior and coastal areas.

32. The programme will provide technical support to facilitate the decentralization of services, when needed, in order to better serve and protect children and their families throughout the country. These efforts will build on the existing initiatives of key actors.

33. The capacity strengthening of national statistics offices and civil registry offices will remain a priority in order to improve the generation, analysis and use of disaggregated data that help to better target the most vulnerable children and families with inclusive policies. The programme will support the countries in building evidence on multidimensional poverty to improve social programme targeting and public investments.

34. UNICEF will work with both Governments on policy decisions regarding the social investment in children as well as the efficiency, effectiveness, equity and transparency of spending to ensure adequate resource allocations for quality social services in social protection, ECD and child protection, particularly for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children. Specific assistance will be provided to increase the capacity of Governments and academic institutions to assess and monitor national social investment in children and women and to strengthen evidence-informed programme and policy development to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

35. UNICEF will support both countries in their monitoring and reporting on the implementation of international commitments relating to child rights through the provision of technical advice and assistance for reporting as well as by making and implementing plans to follow up on recommendations from the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the universal periodic review and other international human rights mechanisms.

Programme effectiveness

36. The programme effectiveness component supports the capacity of UNICEF and partners in realizing the results highlighted in the three programme components, including efforts in programme planning, monitoring and evaluation, gender, communications and the mainstreaming of disaster preparedness and response. The programme will follow a results-based management approach to ensure that efforts and resources are clearly linked with results for children.

37. Evidence generation and planning, monitoring and evaluation will support all three programme components in setting baselines and targets, monitoring results and enabling the country office and the Government to better target the most vulnerable children and families.

38. Communications for social and behavioural change will be a cross-cutting strategy to build evidence on how to address social norms that constitute a bottleneck for the realization of children's rights. UNICEF will support the Governments, communities, social mobilizers, key stakeholders and opinion leaders on developing strategies aimed at creating demand for policies and practices for the improved realization of children's rights. Specific attention will be given to social norms that condone violence against children as a disciplinary measure.

39. The advocacy strategy will seek to enhance the leadership of UNICEF as a trusted voice for children; reach decision makers and a general audience with evidence-informed messages; and engage policymakers, civil-society groups and opinion makers to take action and demand specific changes for the most vulnerable children in Guyana and Suriname.

40. The communications strategy will revolve around the deepening of partnerships with traditional mass media in order to reach general audiences, while increasingly penetrating social media platforms. Youth leaders with important social media followings will be involved to become agents for providing information and promoting positive changes among youth.

41. Considering the increasing vulnerability to the effects of climate change, disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness will be integrated into all programme components.

Summary budget table

Programme component	*(In thousands of United States dollars)*		
	Regular resources	*Other resources*	*Total*
Child protection	2 750	2 650	5 400
Lifelong learning	2 750	3 100	5 850
Social inclusion and child rights monitoring	1 850	1 650	3 500
Programme effectiveness	1 535	1 800	3 335
Total	**8 885**	**9 200**	**18 085**

Programme and risk management

42. The country programme document outlines the contributions of UNICEF to the results of Guyana and Suriname and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels with respect to country programmes is prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures and the internal controls framework.

43. For programme implementation, UNICEF will work in coordination with United Nations agencies in implementing the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable

Development Framework 2017-2021 through the mechanism of the steering committee composed of representatives from Government and United Nations agencies. For this purpose, annual monitoring and reporting mechanisms will be established.

44. The main risks for the programme include the public sector's challenges in coordinating intersectoral policies, the incomplete alignment of legislation with international norms and the gap in the financing needed to achieve the programme's outcomes. These risks will be mitigated by developing and strengthening mechanisms for intersectoral cooperation at various levels of governance; supporting countries to fully harmonize legislation with international standards; strengthening countries' capacity to budget for children in a systematic and effective manner; conducting advocacy based on the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and on evidence in order to ensure their implementation; and the implementation of a fundraising strategy with both the public and private sectors, including participating in subregional and joint fundraising initiatives.

45. UNICEF will provide technical assistance and facilitate the exchange of experiences through South-South and triangular cooperation on the application of a rights-based approach. The programme will focus especially on strengthening cooperation with other countries in the Caribbean and Amazon regions and in leveraging intercountry efforts.

46. Guyana and Suriname are vulnerable to different types of natural disasters, and so their early warning systems will be updated regularly using evidence of the intensity and occurrence of events. UNICEF will continue to support disaster risk reduction and humanitarian response as part of its focus on children.

Monitoring and evaluation

47. National capacities in both countries will be strengthened to ensure the availability of disaggregated statistics on children and adolescents. The use of nationally owned periodic surveys on the situation of children, such as the multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS), will be promoted in order to obtain standardized data that can be used as baselines, for tracking progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and for measuring the impact of social programmes. The programme will support innovative approaches that use new technologies and platforms to collect data, information and opinions. This will strengthen the countries' ability to plan, tailor and evaluate programmes in an effective manner.

48. A costed evaluation plan includes major evaluations on violence against children and the mainstreaming of climate change in education. The programme will systematically track progress against planned results through regular reviews with partners, including annual reviews.

49. UNICEF will ensure the monitoring and evaluation of the country programme results and their contribution towards the Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework-defined results. It will continue to strengthen performance, accountability and coherence, as called for by the General Assembly following the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, including through reporting results across agencies. In particular, UNICEF will lead the United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework Monitoring and Evaluation Group.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Guyana and Suriname – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2017-2021

Convention on the Rights of the Child: articles 2, 4, 5, 9, 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 39 and 40 **National priorities:** Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 13 and 16; UNICEF Health Strategy 2015-2030, Guyana Youth Policy, Guyana Education Strategy Plan 2014-2018, Guyana Sexual Offenses Act, Guyana Domestic Violence Act, Guyana Protection of Children Act, State of the Union speech of the President of Suriname covering the period 2015-2020 and Suriname Stabilization and Recovery Plan 2016-2018.
Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework outcomes involving UNICEF: 1. Access to quality education and lifelong learning increased for the enhancement of employability and decent and sustainable economic development; 2. Access to equitable social protection systems and quality services improved; 3. Equitable access to justice and protection and citizen security and safety reinforced; 4. Universal access to quality health-care services and health-care system improved; 5. Laws, policies and systems introduced to support healthy lifestyles among all segments of the population; 6. Policies and programmes for climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and universal access to clean and sustainable energy in place. **Outcome indicators measuring change that includes UNICEF contribution:** Number of countries able to ascertain attrition rates in sexual offences and domestic violence cases by procedural stage (police and courts); number of countries with functioning mechanisms to systematically collect, analyse and use disaggregated data and other forms of information that use regionally established tools for monitoring and reporting on the situation of women and children; number of countries with a decrease in the number of women and men reporting experiences of physical and sexual violence; representation of strategies that address globally agreed climate change priorities in relevant planning documents and processes; number of countries with at least two sector-specific disaster risk reduction strategies under implementation; percentage of graduates leaving with a certificate of technical and vocational training and education, disaggregated by age and sex; percentage of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency; participation rate of youth and adults in formal or non-formal education and training in the past 12 months, disaggregated by sex; percentage of youth (15-24 years) not in education, employment or training; percentage of children, both boys and girls, living below the national poverty line or in multidimensional poverty; percentage of the eligible population covered by social protection floors and systems, disaggregated by sex, and distinguishing children, the unemployed, the elderly, people with disabilities, pregnant women and newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and vulnerable; number of monitoring and evaluation frameworks for social protection programmes; the extent to which national and subregional statistical systems are strengthened for evidence-based planning and for monitoring lagging Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals; number of countries that have achieved their targets for births attended by skilled health personnel; number of countries that have achieved the 90-90-90 target (age, gender and key groups)
Related UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome(s): 1. Health; 2. HIV/AIDS; 3. Water, sanitation and hygiene; 4. Nutrition; 5. Education; 6. Child protection; and 7. Social inclusion

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
1. By 2021, national legislation is implemented to prevent, mitigate and address violence and other childhood abuses and the justice, education, public health, security and other sectors observe children's rights to this protection.	Proportion of children aged 2 to 14 (1 to 14) years who experience violent disciplinary practices by an adult member of the household Baseline: 66% (girls), 74% (boys) (Guy); 85% (girls), 87% (boys) (Sur) Target: 10% reduction for all groups	MICS, study on violence against children (Suriname), administrative data	1.1 Increased country capacity to promote and ensure justice and systems that enable the prevention and treatment of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect 1.2 Strengthened political commitment to legislate a budget for strengthening interventions that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect 1.3 Increased capacity of rights holders and duty bearers to foster positive practices and norms to protect children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect	Government of Guyana/Government of Suriname (including the Ministries of Justice and Police; Public Security, Social Protection, Education, Public Health, Finance and Legal Affairs, as well as gender bureaus) Parliaments of Guyana and Suriname Civil society organizations (CSOs)	2 750	2 650	5 400
	Children in detention per 100,000 child population Baseline: 27 (Guy) 17 (Sur) Target: 17 (Guy) 13 (Sur)	Administrative data					
	Children (0-17 years) living in residential care, with disaggregated target ages and a specific target for children aged 0 to 3 years Baseline: 600 (Guy) 1,600 (Sur) Target: 20% reduction for both	Administrative data					
	Girls (15-17 years) who have ever experienced sexual violence Baseline: 313 girls (14-18 years) (Guy) TBD (Sur) Target: 10% reduction	MICS, study on violence against children (Suriname), administrative data					
2. By 2021, all children	1. Percentage of children (36-	MICS, Educational	2.1 Strengthened national	Ministry of	2 750	3 100	5 850

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
and adolescents, especially the most disadvantaged among them, have improved their education and developmental outcomes and accessed equitable and inclusive learning environments across the life cycle, including in emergencies.	59 months) on track in at least three of four development domains, total and disaggregated by gender, poorest quintile and urban/rural Baseline: 86% (Guy); 71% (Sur) Target: 95% (Guy); 80% (Sur)	Management Information System, Health Management Information System, programme reports	frameworks, policies, plans and standards to increase access to high-quality, equitable, inclusive, and holistic early childhood development, learning and care environments for girls and boys (0-8 years) and their families by 2021, including in emergencies 2.2 Enhanced capacity of national and subnational entities in education planning, collection and use of data, system monitoring and budgeting, to provide equitable, inclusive and relevant education for all children and adolescents by 2021 2.3 Strengthened organizational capacity of key stakeholders to design and deliver equitable, inclusive and relevant education services, transitioning strategies and protective learning environments, including in emergencies, for all children and adolescents within rights-based educational frameworks and principles by 2021	Education, Ministry of Health , Ministry of Social Affairs , NGOs/CSOs, research institutes, Pan American Health Organization, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Bank, Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)/Basic Education Improvement Programme, United Nations Population Fund			
	2. Gross enrolment ratio in pre-primary education, by gender Baseline: 93% (girls), 95% (boys) (Guy); 96% (girls); 92% (boys) (Sur) Target: 100% for all	Study on out-of-school children					
	3. Lower secondary education completion rate, by gender Baseline: 38% girls, 49% (boys) (Guy); 46% (girls), 35% (boys) (Sur) Target: 10% increase for all groups						
	4. Percentage of students who are overage for grade in primary education, by gender Baseline: 18% (girls), 22% (boys) (Sur); TBD (Guy) Target: 10% decrease for all groups						
	5. Percentage of students experiencing bullying,						

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
	corporal punishment, harassment, violence, sexual discrimination or abuse Baseline: bullying: 37% (girls), 40% (boys) (Guy); 26% (girls), 26% (boys) (Sur) Target: 10% decrease for all groups						
3. By 2021, national systems and policies are effectively addressing multiple deprivations affecting the most vulnerable boys and girls across the life cycle and building their resilience through adequately funded social investments and rights-based quality social policies based on adequately disaggregated data on children.	1. Public expenditure for children (percentage of gross domestic product) disaggregated by sector: social protection, health, education, child protection, and ECD Baseline: to be established in 2016 (Guy/Sur) Target: to be determined in 2016 (Guy/Sur)	Government budget plan and expenditure reports, assessment report of social sector budget and expenditures, MICS, analysis report on child poverty, administrative data on child protection programmes, statistics yearbook, programme reports	3.1 Strengthened national and subnational human and institutional capacity to develop and deliver inclusive and equitable social protection systems to strengthen the resilience of and protect boys and girls from all forms of poverty and social exclusion 3.2 Improved national and sub-national capacity to systematically collect, analyse and use disaggregated data and other forms of information to monitor, inform policy decision-making and report on the situation of children and child poverty in all of its dimensions, using an equity-based approach 3.3 Enhanced national systems that govern the volume, efficiency and impact of invested resources towards building resilience of the most vulnerable boys, girls and adolescents	Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Finance, President's Cabinet and Planning Unit, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Regional Development, National Assembly Suriname, General Bureau of Statistics of Suriname, NGOs/CSOs, children and youth organizations, research institutes, United Nations Development Programme, IDB and other stakeholders	1 850	1 650	3 500
	2. Number of children covered by social protection systems Baseline: To be established in 2016 (Guy/Sur) Target: To be determined in 2016 (Guy/Sur)	Government budget plan and expenditure reports, assessment report on social sector budget and expenditures, MICS, analysis report on child poverty, administrative data					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines and targets*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
		on child protection programmes, statistics yearbooks					
	3. Proportion of children covered by social protection systems of the total children targeted by social protection systems Baseline: to be established in 2016 (Guy/Sur) Target: to be determined in 2016 (Guy/Sur)	Government budget plan and expenditure reports, assessment report of social sector budget and expenditures, MICS, analysis report on child poverty, administrative data on child protection programmes, statistics yearbooks					
Programme effectiveness					**1 535**	**1 800**	**3 335**
Total resources					**8 885**	**9 200**	**18 085**